BIRZ
COMICS
月輪（がちりん）に斬り咲く
丸山
Tomo
Maruyama
presents
朝ヲ

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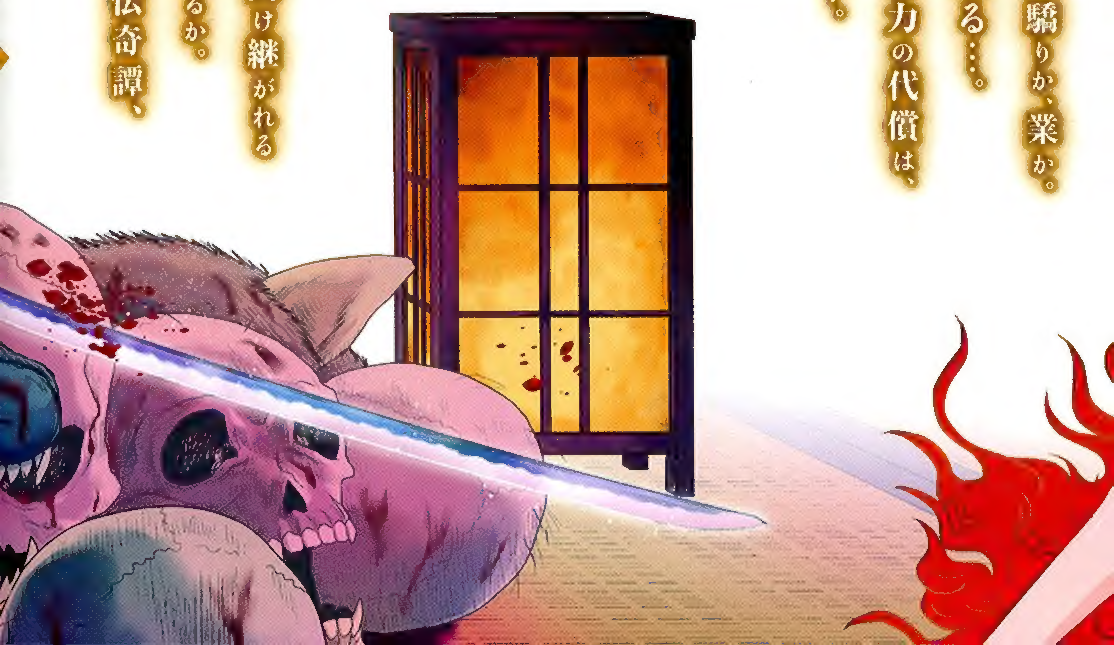
巣喰ワレ

異形なるその姿は、人の驕りか、業か。
狗に身を落とし、狗を斬る…。
同族を屠る、血塗られた力の代償は、
あまりに大き過ぎた――…。

未だ連綿と…酷烈に受け継がれる
醜業の末路とは、いかなるか。
血煙舞う衝撃の和風伝奇譚、
急転の第四巻。



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BRANCH HOUSE - INMO
BRANCH HOUSE - KWANNI

THE ABYSS

BIRZ COMICS

月輪に斬り咲く 四

丸山朝ヲ
Tomō Maruyama presents

SOMETHING LIKE WHAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKE WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER

Appearing Characters

Kuchiwa (Yatsufusa of the Ichika)

Kaina (Yatsufusa of the Ninogi)

Fuurai (Yatsufusa of the Sanzashi)

Hanabishi (Yatsufusa of the Yomotsu)

Inugami Possessions

Ninogi Kaina

Kougen (Yatsufusa of the Gohou)

Hanemaru (Yatsufusa of the Mutsu)

Nanafushi (Yatsufusa of the Nagiri)

Koorogi (Yatsufusa of the Yagusa)

Akazukin

Shirachigo

Inugami Ihana

Heretical Gorging Guard, Shippe

Main House - Inugami

Inugami Sakuya

After Transforming

Tomohime Chinami

Osekami-hime

Branch House - Inunaka

Inunaka Maki

Inunaka Taki

Branch House - Inuio

Inuio Yuzuri

Inuio Tokake

Inumori Family

Inumori Kazae

Inumori Hitoe

Inumori Futae

Inumori Mie

Inumori Yotsue

Inumori Itsue

Inunaka Mutsue

Inunaka Nanae

Inunaka Yae

月輪（がちりん）に斬り咲く
丸山朝ヲ
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四

◆あらすじ◆

人を襲う獣人「狗神憑き」となってしまった一族の者を、容赦なく斬りふせる事を使命とする家系「狗神筋」。その当代巫女・犬上サクヤは、自分の運命を受け入れつつも、狗に身を落とすことに嫌悪感を抱いていた。そんなサクヤの心の支えは幼馴染の甲斐名の存在。互いに守り合う事を誓った二人。しかし、甲斐名はサクヤを愛するあまり狗神憑きに変貌。サクヤは、自分自身の手で甲斐名を葬る事を決意するのだが…。

そんな中、分家と共に狗神憑きを追うサクヤ。分家の一人、犬中マキが遭遇したのは狗神憑きの中でも特に危険な「古狗」だった。自分の力を過信したマキは古狗・煌玄と花菱に翻弄される。焦るマキを誘惑したのは、狗神筋の力の源、大狗神・滅灰だった…。

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YOU BITCH... YOU'RE THE ONE FROM BEFORE!!
19
SAKU... YA!

19 WILD DANCE UNDER THE MOON

FORGIVE ME FOR BEING LATE...

MAKI!
UUU

SHIT ...
I AM NOW IN RANGE.
I WON'T LET ANYONE LAY A FINGER ON YOU!
I'M SO PATHETIC ...

IT'S JUST THAT ...
HUHU ...
WELL THIS IS NEW...
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU'RE EAGER TO USE MY POWER, SAKUYA...
YOU'RE EVEN CALM ABOUT IT ...
EVERY NOW AND THEN I GET TO THINKING THE DAY WILL COME WHEN... I SHOULD JUST ACCEPT AND RELY ON YOUR POWER.
AS I THOUGHT, THE "SOUND OF MOON" IS A LITTLE HARD ON ME...
UUU
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...
AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT ATTITUDE ...
THIS TIME, HOWEVER... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE MORE THAN ONE "DOG SLAYER" ...
WE'RE TOO FAR AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY'S STORE HOUSE.
THEN I WILL MAKE DO WITH THIS ONE SWORD!
BYAHA!
WELL SAID!

HANABISHI ... KOUGEN... I AM HERE TO SUPPRESS YOU!!
HMPF!
COME FORTH, INUGAMI SOLDIERS!!
!

ズズッ…
ズ
WHAT'S UP WITH THESE GUYS?! ALL THE ONES WE DECAPITATED... ARE MOVIN' AROUND AND STICKIN' THEIR HEADS RIGHT BACK ON!!
OOOO…
OOO…
GUFUAFUA…
THE "RITUAL" OF "SURVIVAL" HAS BEEN ENGRAVED INTO THEM…
EVEN IF YOU CUT THEIR ARMS AND HEADS OFF THEY WILL COME RIGHT BACK TO LIFE. THESE SOLDIERS ARE IMMORTAL…

GO FORTH!
PINCER FORMATION <DEATH WIND JAW!>
ビー
ガガガ

A "RITUAL" ... THAT'S RIGHT, THESE GUYS WERE ONMYOUJI OF KYO SO THEY HAVE THEM ALL BOUND BY A SPELL OF THEIRS ...
I GET IT NOW... THEY BOUND THEIR SOULS RIGHT TO THEIR BODIES...
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS... THAT MAKES THEM NO MORE THAN PUPPETS THEN...
IF WE DESTROY THAT MARK ON THEIR FOREHEADS... THEN MAYBE...
I WILL GIVE IT A TRY!

NOT ONLY WERE THEY POSSESSED BY THE INUGAMI BUT FOR THEM TO GO EVEN FURTHER AND BIND THEM TO THEIR BODIES IS JUST-!
I MUST HURRY AND FREE THEM!
GRRR...

ROAR OF FLICKERING FLOWERS

SUPPRESS!!

KUONRYUU - SLIDING HELMET SPLITTER

HHN
...

WE CAN DO THIS!

ドルン

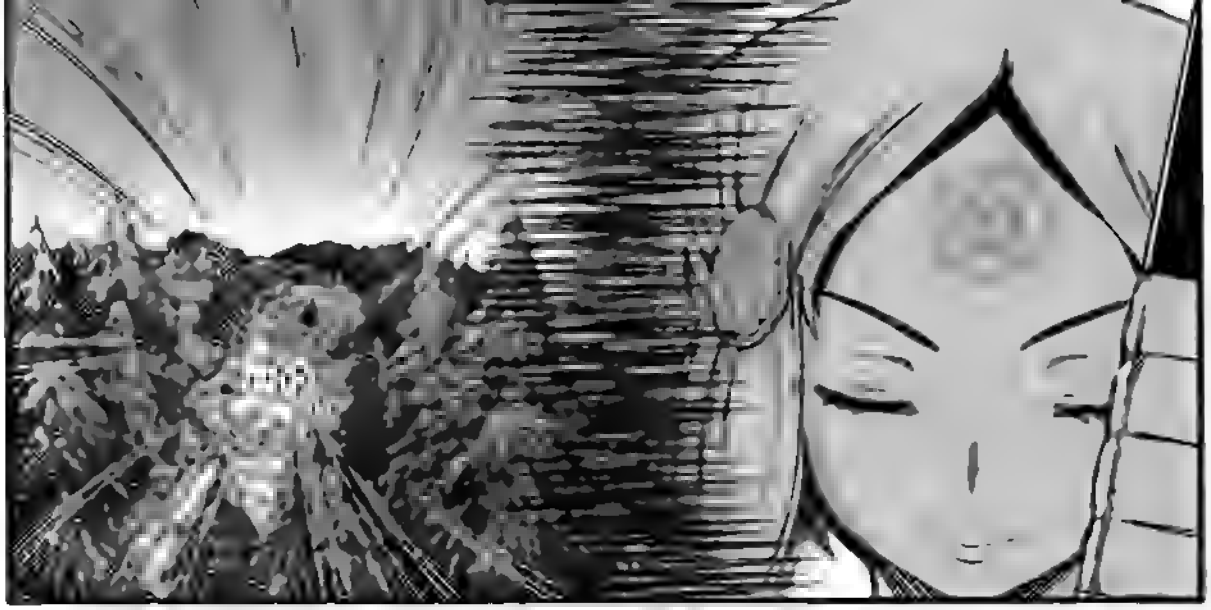
YOU'RE DOING IT PRETTY DAMN WELL.
BUT I GOTTA SAY... FOR YOUR FIRST "VOID JUMP" ...
HM? HUH?
HOW DID YA GET TO SEE ME DO THAT?
THAT I WAS ABLE TO LEARN THE SECRET BEHIND IT.
IT'S BECAUSE I GOT TO SEE YOU JUMP BEFORE ...
HUHU ...

SURPRISE ATTACK FORMATION "NIGHT ATTACK IN THE FIELDS" !!
GRRRRR

BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, SAKUYA-
YA GOTTA WATCH YOUR REAR BETTER!!
OH MY ...
YOU ARE AMAZING, SAKUYA-SAN...
YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU HAVE PROPERLY MASTERED THE USE OF YOUR GREAT INUGAMI ...

YUZURI-SAN, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN BE DEFEATED BY DESTROYING THE MARKS ON THEIR FOREHEADS ...
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THE SAME WITH YOUR ARROWS?
I WILL TRY.

HI... FUMI ...
THE SLAYING ARROWHEAD ... "HIRANU" ...
YO...
IMUNA ... YA...
KO... TO!



ヒュウゥウ

AND NOT ONLY THAT, SHE WAS ABLE TO HIT IT WITH SUCH ACCURACY!!
WHAT AN ATTACK!!
FAR-REACHING KAMA-ITACHI
INUO KUON-RYUU
SUPPRESS!

TL NOTE: "KAMAITACHI" ARE THREE WEASELS WITH SCYTHES THAT RIDE THE WIND AND CUT PEOPLE

KUU...
OUR INUGAMI SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN... COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED?!
YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY PAWNS TO PROTECT YOURSELF WITH!
PREPARE YOURSELF!

ガキ
HMPF... FOR AN ENEMY YOU ARE MOST SPLENDID... INUGAMI ...
HAS THE WAY YOU CARRIED YOURSELF... CHANGED SLIGHTLY SINCE WE LAST MET?
ギリ...
HANABISHI ...
WE CANNOT ALLOW A YATSUFUSA LIKE YOU... TO ESCAPE AND MAKE MORE INUGAMI POSSESSIONS!!
DO IT NOW... YUZURI-SAN!!
RIGHT ...
ギギ

HANABISHI... HOW DARE YOU DRIVE MAKI TO SUCH AN EXTENT ...
"WATA-KURI"
IT IS BOTH ABLE TO PENETRATE AS WELL AS HOOK INTO YOU. IT IS AN ARROWHEAD THAT WILL DIG ITSELF INTO YOUR FLESH ...
SO FEEL FREE TO WRITHE IN AGONY BEFORE YOU PERISH.
ヒョ
ヒュン

HMMM
THEN I WILL USE A SUPPRESSION ARROW TO DESTROY HIS ARM.
KOUGEN ?!
SUPPRESS!
.....

NOTHING HAPPENED ?!
...
!
TAKE THIIIS!
!?

THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO ...
LET US RETREAT... HANABISHI ...
HMPF ...
I SUPPOSE WE HAVE NO CHOICE THEN...
INUGAMI... MAKE SURE TO PREPARE YOURSELF TO FALL BY MY HAND THE NEXT TIME WE MEET!
WHA- WAIT!

!?
HMMM
?!

パラ
パラ
THEIR PRESENCE IS GONE... IT LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT AWAY... HUH...
KUU ...
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
MAKI!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE MOVING?
MAKI... SAN...
MAKI-SAN! ARE YOUR WOUNDS-
OI, YOU IDIOT! DON'T UNDO THE "HIFUMI"!

THIS... BODY...
IS... MINE ...

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GETSURIN NI KIRI SAKU

CHAPTER 19
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SHIT... THAT HANABISHI... I'LL NEVER... FORGIVE HIM...
I'LL TURN HIM INTO MINCEMEAT!

YOU SURE... YOU WANT TO JUST... LET... HIM... GO?
YOU SAID YOU WOULD... KILL EVERY LAST ONE, DIDN'T YOU?
DAMN... IT...
MY BODY WON'T MOVE! DAMMIT!!

UNDO THIS... SACRED SHRINE ROPE!
.....!!
BUT... THAT'S SOMETHING THAT OLD HAG SAID... I SHOULDN'T DO...
THIS THING IS... SUPPRESSING... MY POWER... NOW UNDO IT!!

第20話 THE PRIESTESS DECEIVED

ズオッ
HUU ...
WHAT? YOU WERE THERE, AKITO?
CLAP CLAP
SEEING YOU CUT THAT LOG LIKE THAT...
I KNEW IT, YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING NEE-CHAN ...
YOU'RE MY IDOL.
AKITO... MY LITTLE BROTHER ...

YOU SHOULD TRY, TOO ...
YOU'RE MY LITTLE BROTHER SO YOU WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO DO IT...
HMMM... I WOULDN'T BE ANY GOOD...
I HAVE HORRIBLE SENSES AND I'VE... ALWAYS BEEN WEAK ...
UNLIKE ME HE HAD A KIND HEART-
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CURSE THE INUGAMI MAIN HOUSE WAS UNDER BUT THEY ONLY GAVE BIRTH TO GIRLS...
WHILE OUR BRANCH HOUSE GAVE BIRTH TO BOYS EVERY NOW AND THEN.
THERE WERE TIMES I THOUGHT THE OLD HAG DIDN'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO AKITO BUT ...
...
HE WAS JUST SO CUTE I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
TAKE THIS ♡

バシッ...
AND EVER SINCE SHE DIED THAT SCARY OLD HAG PUT ME THROUGH HELL EVERY DAY.
YOU MUST BE SURE TO HOLD THE BLADE MORE FIRMLY!
KUU... WHY YOU OLD HAG!
MOM ENDED UP DYING A LONG TIME AGO...
THAT'S WHY I WAS PUT ON THE FAST TRACK TO BECOME A PRIESTESS SO I COULD SUCCEED HER...
HMPF
I WON'T HAVE YOU LOSE TO THE MAIN FAMILY!
WE'RE GOING TO TURN EVERYTHING AROUND WITH YOUR GENERATION!

AND ABOVE ALL ELSE, I HAD A GOAL...
I HAD MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND, YUZURI, WITH ME...
BUT, IT WASN'T HARD AT ALL...

And suppressing all the impurities-
The goal of destroying all the Inugami and Inugami possessions...
HAA
HAA
HAA

The men born into the branch house...
Would often easily become infected by impurities ...
And there were many times when they would turn into Inugami Possessions.

Not on my watch!
Akito would turn into an Inugami Possession ?!

I'll destroy the very source of all this... The Inugami and Inugami Possessions!
Before the impurities... Before the Inugami possess him...

WHERE DID HE GO?
AKITOOO
BUT-
IT REALLY GOT LATE AFTER ALL MY PRACTICING, HUH...
AH!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE...
SORRY I'M LATE ...
ABOUT THE BOOK I BORROWED FROM YOU... IT'S JUST TOO HARD FOR ME TO-
?
NEE...- CHA-

ガバッ
ズガン
THAT HURT ...
A...KI... TO... ARE YOU-
HE'S SO STRONG...
NEE-CHA...N, WHAT IS... THIS... FEEL... ING?
I... I...
ガはぁ

REALLY WANT TO EAT... YOU...
I FEEL LIKE IF I DO THAT I'LL GET STRONGER ...
AH...
A... KI...
BUT... IF IT'S MY LITTLE BROTHER I WOULDN'T MIND... IF HE ATE ME...
THAT'S WHAT I HAD ...

GYAAAAAA
THOUGHT AT THE TIME, BUT-
HU... HUH? WHAT... IS THIS?
THAT IS PROBABLY THE GREAT INUGAMI'S "POWER" ...
LET ME PRAISE YOU, MAKI...
YOUR BODY WAS ABLE TO UNCONSCIOUSLY VIEW YOUR "LITTLE BROTHER" AS AN ENEMY AND ATTACK.

EH?
AS A WOMAN OF THE INUNAKA, YOU ARE FIRST RATE... HERE!
PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY BY YOUR OWN HAND! GO NOW AND SUPPRESS HIM...
HE'S THE LITTLE BROTHER YOU LOVED SO MUCH, ISN'T HE?
IF YOU ARE GOING TO HESITATE THEN I WILL FINISH HIM OFF MYSELF.
IF YOU LET HIM GET AWAY HE WILL COME TO ATTACK OTHER PEOPLE... SO BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
THA... THAT'S JUST-
ME... KILL... AKITO?

AAA-
AAH!
I'M GOING TO-
!!
BEFORE THE KIND HEARTED AKITO... SULLIES HIS HANDS-
UWAAA-
Uuu...
I CAN'T... LET THAT... HAPPEN...
I KILLED-
MY CUTE LITTLE BROTHER...
WITH MY... OWN... HANDS...
MY... OWN...
GU GU GU...

AKITO... YOU WERE...
THAT'S... WHEN YOU... MADE THAT... VOW, RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO KILL EVERY ONE OF THEM-
THEN ALL OF THE INUGAMI POSSESSIONS SHOULD DIE!
SO KIND... IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAS TO DIE...
I'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO... HEAL YOUR WOUNDS IN AN... INSTANT...
IF YOU UNDO DO THIS SACRED SHRINE ROPE... I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH "POWER" ... AS YOU... WANT!
THAT'S BECAUSE... FOR YOU "POWER" IS... WEAK ...
Uuu ...
BUT... YOU COULDN'T... KILL... THE YATSUFUSA... WITH YOUR "POWER" ...
WHAT WILL... YOU DO?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WHAT WILL YOU... DO?

GOD DAMMIT!!
THERE... I UNDID, MEKKAI !!
NOW YOU WILL HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN
AND GIVE ME "POWER" !!
GU GU... GU...
I'VE FINALLY... BEEN... RELEASED !!
GUUR-ARARA !!
GUU-RARA ...
WHA IS THIS?
SOMETHING'S ... COMING?!
!?

GUR-
ARA
...

YOU'RE...
GOING TO...
STAY HERE
AND TAKE
OUR PLACE
...

WHILE
WE... USE
YOUR BODY...
AS WE
SEE... FIT

GURA-
RARA

THIS...
CAN'T
BE-

A
MUDDY...
STREAM
?!

ぶぐ
ぶぐ
ぶぐ

AAH!
AH!

AAH...
GUU

WHA
?!

MAKI-
SAAAN
!!
JUST WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU?!

HE REALLY DID WHAT?
ズ…ズ…
Tsk
MEKKAI, THAT BASTARD... HE REALLY DID IT...
HE TRICKED THAT WOMAN WHO WAS HIS MASTER AND TOOK OVER HER BODY ...
LOOK OUT!!
ズバ!!

YOU IDIOT... DON'T TRY TO BLOCK IT!
SHI... PPE
GOT IT!!

NOT NEARLY ENOUGH ...
BLOOD
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH BLOOD ...
I WANT TO EAT FLEEESH ...

MAKI... WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
SHE'S EATING THE CARRION OF THAT INUGAMI POSSESSION WE SUPPRESSED!!
……!
ガブッ
ガブッ
THE... THEY'RE SPILLING ... OUT
ALL 74... OF THE INUGAMI ARE... BREAKING... OUT...
UOOOH ...
IT'S SO GOO... OOOD
THIS BODY'S... SO... CRAMPED... THEY CAN'T... STAND TO... STAY INSIDE...
ぶるる
ぶるるる

べろろろ
ろろろ
ぶっ殺す

ガワ ガワ
OIOI... THEY'RE ALL COMING OUT...
WHAT A RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT HER?
INDEED... JUST WHAT... IS THAT? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MAKI-SAN?!
WE "GREAT INUGAMIS" ... OR SO WE'RE CALLED ARE INFAMOUS INUGAMI POSSESSIONS ...
OUR HEADS WERE CUT OFF AND CONTROLLED BY SOME WEIRD SPELL ...
IT LOOKS SHE UNTIED THAT ROPE... AROUND HIS NECK...
THAT... CANNOT BE...
BYAHAHA! SAKUYA, IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN I'LL TAKE YOU OVER!
AND THAT'S WHAT YOU WILL END UP LIKE THAT!
BYAHAHA

KUKU ...
.....
WHAT? YOU SCARED, SAKUYA?
YOU'RE RIGHT, I AM JUST UTTERLY TERRIFIED...
MINOR ?!
I BEST MAKE SURE I DON'T LET MY GUARD DOWN AGAINST A MINOR VILLAIN LIKE SHIPPE-SAN... (HE IS A LECHER, AFTER ALL)
HUHUU ...
AT ANY RATE, I HAVE TO BRING MAKI-SAN BACK TO HER SENSES!
GIVE ME A HAND, SHIPPE!
A MINOR VILLAIN? WHY YOU ...
OOI!!
TSK
YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY COCKY, HUH...
MAKI-SAN! I'M GOING TO BRING YOU BACK TO YOUR SENSES!!

GRRRR
...
GURAA...
MAKIIIII
?

THAT GIRL IS LONG GONE ...
BEU UU
BYAU
BYAA AU
GUR-ARA!!

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RETURN MAKI-SAN'S BODY TO HER AT ONCE!!
MEKKAI!!

SHE IS GONE... SHE HAS BEEN DEVOURED BY THE INUGAMI AND HAS BEEN SWEPT AWAY LIKE RAGS ON A RIVER...
GRARA ... RA

MAKI!
AH!

21
THE NESTED PRIESTESS

BYAU
AND NOW I WILL ASSIMILATE YOU AS WELL!!
GRA RA
BEEE
BYAU
SUPPRESS!

?
ばっ

GRAGRA ... THAT TICKLED ...
……!?
EVEN IF YOU... SUPPRESS ONE PART OF AN INUGAMI... IT WILL IMMEDIATELY REGENERATE ...
THAT'S THE SPELL THAT WAS CAST ONTO US YOU SEE...
AND THE ONES WHO CAST IT WERE YOU HUMANS!
ガッ ガッ ガッ

THAT FORM... SHE HAS BEEN "NESTED" !!
WHAT A DISASTER!
.....
IT'S PROOF... THAT MAKI HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY HER GREAT INUGAMI...

SAKUYA-SAN...
YUZURI-SAN!
PLEASE DRAW "IT'S" ATTENTION FOR A SHORT WHILE.
EH?

I AM GOING TO SEND IT'S HEAD FLYING.

THAT IS THE BURDEN THAT ALL US PRIESTESSES OF SUPPRESSION CARRY...
IF WE MAKE A MISTAKE DEATH WILL VISIT US SHORTLY AFTER-WARDS-
AH, BUT ....
.....!!

MAKI SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT AS WELL ...
BUT THAT'S ...
HMMM ?
...
INUO YUZURI... IS PLANNING TO TAKE AIM... WITH HER BOW DOES SHE NOT ?
GRAR-ARA-RA!!
YOU ARE... GOING TO SHOOT YOUR ARROWS UPON MAKI ARE YOU?!
VERY... WELL... THEN... SHOW ME!! AS IF YOU COULD DO SUCH A THING!!

I WILL NOT MISS NEXT TIME!

I MISSED ON PURPOSE. RETURN MAKI'S BODY TO HER IMMEDIATELY... THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.

DO NOT THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF... HUMAN ...

GRA... I KNEW... THAT YOU WOULD MISS ON PURPOSE... AND THAT IS WHY I DID NOT MOVE...

ズズ...

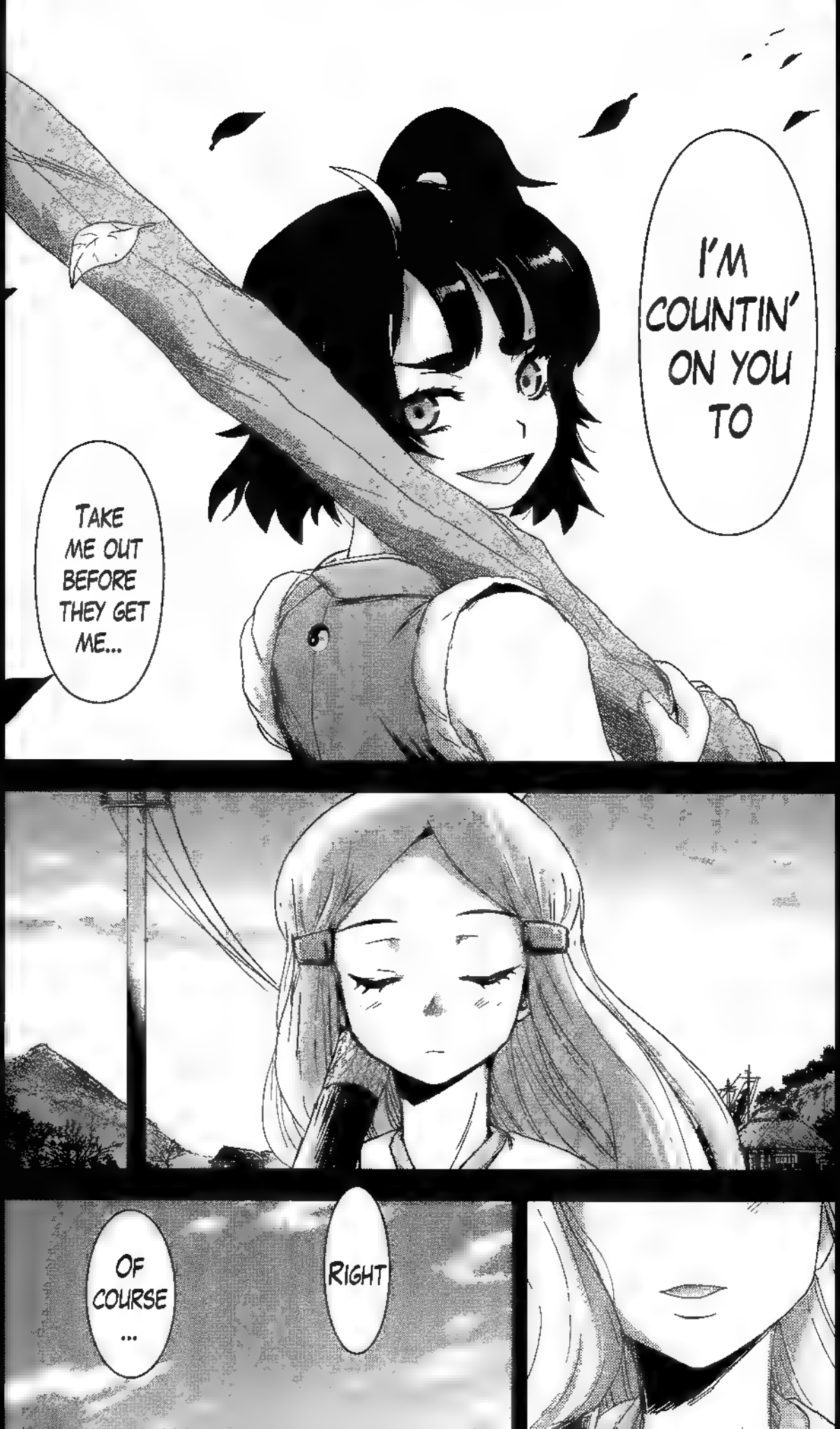
.....

AS I THOUGHT, IT IS... NO USE...

GRAGRA ...

HHN NN ...

MAKI!!
.....
YUZURI, I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK.
YES, I KNOW.
I PLAN TO... KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL I DESTROY THEM ALL WITHOUT GETTING BEAT, BUT...
IF...
AND THIS IS A BIG IF... IF I END UP...
FALLING INTO THEIR HANDS... AND THEY DO WHATEVER THEY LIKE WITH MY BODY...
THIS IS SUDDEN... WHAT IS IT, MAKI?
I HATE INUGAMIS AND INUGAMI POSSESSIONS -


I'M COUNTIN' ON YOU TO
TAKE ME OUT BEFORE THEY GET ME...
OF COURSE ...
RIGHT

MAKI... I WILL NOT LET ANYONE KILL YOU... BUT MYSELF.
I DO NOT THINK YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO KILL ME VERY CLEANLY, AFTER ALL
I WOULD RATHER YOU DIDN'T ...
I'LL BE SURE TO DO THE SAME FOR YOU, ALL RIGHT!

GRA RA!
WHAT'S... THE MATTER ? I KNEW IT WERE YOU... JUST BLUFFING ?!
.....

MAKI!!
I AM GOING TO MAKE YOU FALL BY MY HAND!!

WAIT! YUZURI-SAN!!
!?
I WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS SOMEHOW !!
IT'S FINE IF YOU WANT TO DRAW YOUR BOW BUT DO IT AFTER I AM DONE TRYING!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN TAKE CARE OF IT SOMEHOW? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HE'S NOT ONE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH...
AND FOR ANOTHER THING SHE'S PRACTICALLY A LOST CAUSE AT THIS POINT ...
!
WHEN THOSE INUGAMIS CAME OUT OF HER BODY IT LOOKED LIKE THEY DEVOURED HER AND TORE HER SPIRIT APART...
EVEN IF THERE WAS ANYTHING LEFT IT WOULD BE NOTHING BUT BITS AND PIECES THAT WOULD HAVE ALREADY SUNK TO THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS BY NOW ...
YOU CAN CALL HER FROM THE OUTSIDE ALL YOU LIKE... NOTHING WILL REACH HER.

EARLIER WHEN I... FELL INTO THE RIVER... I FELT LIKE I DOVE RIGHT INTO YOUR BEING...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL HER HUH ...
ザワ ザワ
KUH
.....!
FROM THE "OUT-SIDE" ?
THEN... WHAT ABOUT THE "INSIDE" ?!
HUH ?

I FELT AS IF I COULD NOT ONLY WATCH... BUT ALSO TOUCH IF I WAS TO REACH OUT ...
IF I COULD DO "THAT" AGAIN, THEN I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO-
I HAVE HEARD OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM MY GREAT GRAND-MOTHER ...
.....
MEMORIES OF THE PAST FLASH BEFORE THE PERSON'S EYES JUST LIKE THEY WOULD SEE BEFORE THEIR DEATH...
THAT IS "THE HELL OF ABYSSAL SUPPRESSION" ! SO IT REALLY DOES EXIST ...
I HAVE ONLY READ A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT BUT THERE IS MENTION OF A SECRET ASTRAL PROJECTION TECHNIQUE IN THE INUGAMI FAMILY ARCHIVES-
IT ALLOWS ANYONE INVOLVED WITH THE INUGAMI TO SEND THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE ABYSS, SEARCH THROUGH MEMORIES AS WELL AS INTERACT WITH THEM... AND IT IS THE TRUE POWER OF THE PRIESTESSES OF SUPPRESSION...
HAS THAT GIRL... NOT REALIZED WHAT SHE HAS DONE YET?

HMMM I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT ...
I THINK IT WOULD BE FASTER TO JUST KILL THAT THING... INSTEAD OF RELYING ON A POWER THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN WORK ...
TSK
BEEEU
!!
GRARA ...
YOU... KILL ME?
HUUU UH?
WHAT'S THAT ?!
YOU HAVE NO HOPE... OF BEATING ME... GRARA!!
YOU HAVE NOT GOTTEN RID OF YOUR HUMAN MASTER... YOU ARE WEAK...

ALL RIGHT! I CAN KILL SOMEONE LIKE YOU IN NO TIME FLAT BUT-
ON SECOND THOUGHT I THINK I'LL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER SAKUYA HAS IN STORE FOR YOU!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
GO SAKUYA!
THANK YOU, SHIPPE ...
RIGHT!

VERY WELL, SAKUYA ...
I WILL TAKE A CHANCE AND LET YOU TRY IT YOUR WAY...
HOWEVER ...

IF I BELIEVE YOUR LIFE TO BE IN DANGER
THEN I WILL SEND MAKI'S HEAD FLYING-
AND IF I FEEL THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE ASSIMILATED INTO THAT THING
THEN I WILL SEND YOUR HEAD FLYING...
IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?

YES!
THAT IS... FINE!!
GRARA!!
IT'S QUICK TO REACT... IF I DELAY MY ADVANCE I WILL BE ABLE TO DODGE IT!
!?

I WILL BE ABLE TO INCAPACITATE MAKI-SAN'S BODY!
THEN IF I USE THAT OPENING TO CLOSE IN
ゴゴゴ
YOU'RE TOO... NAIVE!
!?
ゴゥ"
FOX-FIRE MOON!!

EXTERMINATING FLAME GALE!!
ゴオア
KUU!
!
I CAN'T EVADE-
IT'S TOO FAST ...
IT'S SO HOT ...
UUU
ゴオオ

SHIPPE !!
YOU DO REMEMBER HE USES FIRE RIGHT? YOU GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL ...
AND TO TOP IT OFF... AFTER YOU... DID A HIFUMI YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH BLOOD LEFT RIGHT?
YOU'RE A LOT SLOWER THAN USUAL ...

FORGIVE ME...
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT, I WILL HAVE TO DO THE "HIFUMI" ONCE MORE AND CLOSE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US IN ONE FELL SWOOP WITH A "VOID JUMP" !

I JUST HAVE TO!
HI...
FU... MI...
OIOI... YOU'RE GONNA DO IT AGAIN?

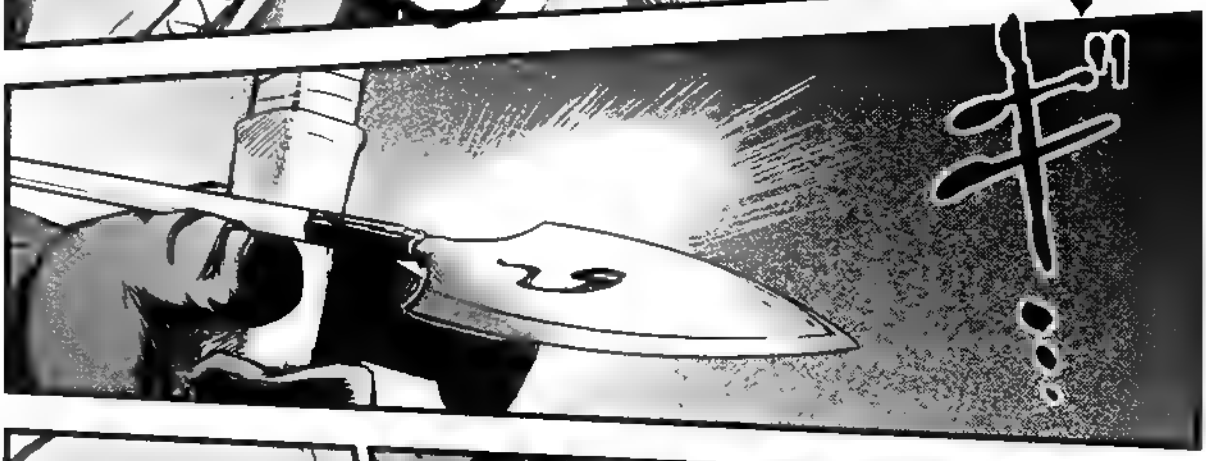
YO-
!?
ズ…
GRAAA
ぱぱ
HHN GU…
ぎゅぅぅぅ
THE VOID JUMP IS... QUITE... A... HASSLE SO...
I WILL NOT LET YOU... PERFORM THE HIFUMI ...

HHNGU
...
WHY YOOOU !!
LET GO OF SAKUYA !
!!
BEGONE FOR A WHILE YOU WHIPPED DOG...

SUPPRESS!
GUO OOH
SHI ... T...
GRARA ...
NOW... JUST WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU...

HHN
...
KUU
...
UUU!
ズブ

UUU!
UUUU UUUU !!
I THINK I WILL EAT YOU FROM THE INSIDE OUT BEFORE I ASSIMILATE YOU...
GRAR-ARA!!



HO...
LD... IT..

!?
IF YOU'RE GONNA MUSCLE IN ON MY TURF ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE...
THEN I'M GONNA GORGE MYSELF ON YOUR INSIDES TOO...
YOU CAN'T... PUT ME TO SLEEP... THAT... EASILY!
.....

I'M NOT FOOLING AROUND ...
I'M GONNA TRY TO HOLD OUT AS LONG AS I CAN SO... QUIT FOOLIN' AROUND AND DO SOMETHING ALREADY!!
GOING... DOWN...
IF I CAN IMAGINE MYSELF ...
I KNOW... SHIPPE'S HAND IS GOING RIGHT INSIDE MAKI-SAN...
IT!

I'M...
IN?!

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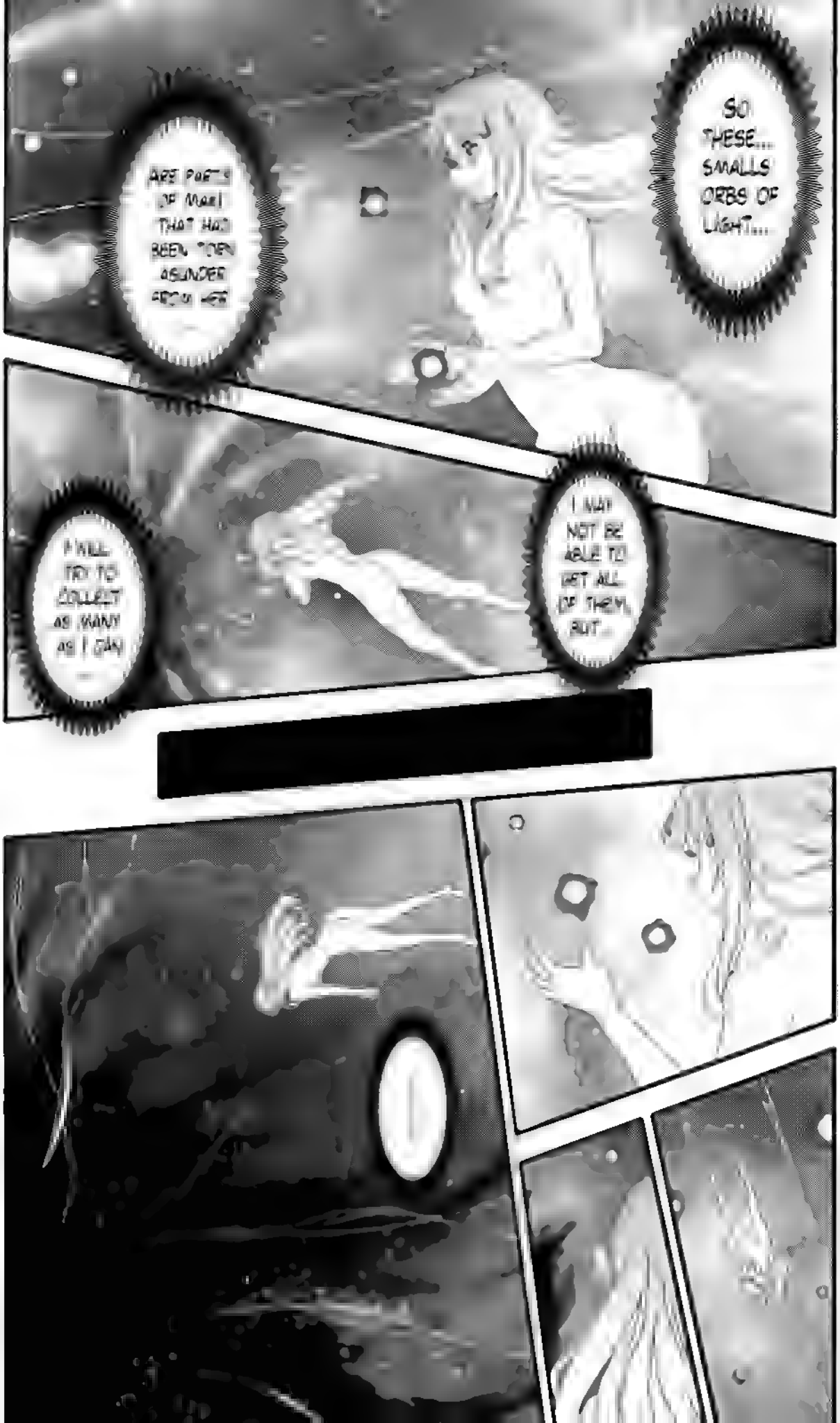
第22話
ズズズ…
JUST... WHAT IS GOING ON?
SAKUYA WENT INSIDE HER...
INSIDE "MAKI" ...
SHE'S A LITTLE ON THE UNGUARDED SIDE NOW, BUT...
HOKEEE...
I'LL KEEP THINGS IN CHECK SOMEHOW!

第22話
THE HELL OF ABYSSAL SUPPRESSION

IT'S LIKE I'M UNDER WATER
I HAVE TO HURRY AND SAVE MARI!
IT MUST HAVE TAKEN ME A WHILE FOR ME TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS BEFORE SO

!?
UAAAA-
AAAAAH!!
AKITOOOO
OOOO!!

THESE ARE
MAKI-SAN'S MEMORIES'


SO THESE... SMALLS ORBS OF LIGHT...
ARE PARTS OF MAKI THAT HAD BEEN TORN ASUNDER ABOUT HERE
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET ALL OF THEM, BUT...
I WILL TRY TO COLLECT AS MANY AS I CAN

I INTENDED TO GO FAIRLY DEEP INSIDE HER, BUT...
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL HESITANT ABOUT DIVING INTO THIS PITCH BLACKNESS ...
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CALL THIS PLACE ABYSSAL...
BUT...

IF MAKI-SAN IS DEEP INSIDE HERE...
THEN I MUST GO!
.....?
SOME-THING... IS...

Ki...
Ki...
Ki...
Ki...
.....!?
WHA-?!
INUGAMI?!
AAH!!

KUU ...
AAAA AAAAAH!
NOOOO!
"THEY" ARE COMING OUT OF MY BODY!!
.....!?
LET'S SEAL HER AWAY.
SHE'S BEYOND HOPE...
I'M BEING FLOODED WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S MEMORIES ?!

AND THEY ARE ALL LIKE MAKI-SAN ...
THESE ARE THE MEMORIES OF ALL THE PRIESTESSES OF SUPPRESSION THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE GREAT INUGAMI

DON'T THROW ME INTO THE OOFURU FOREST!

LI... LISTEN TO ME! I'M HUMAN!

AAAAAH ...

AH... AH...

I... WORKED SO HARD FOR EVERYONE SO... WHY... AM I... HERE?

LET... ME OUT ...

LET ME OUT!!

THIS HEAD'S NO GOOD EITHER ...

IT'S... A FAILURE ...

THE...
"INUGAMI FAMILY" HAVE BEEN
HAVE BEEN DOING SUCH THINGS ALL THIS TIME?!
AH... AH...
AAAH ...
AH...

AAAA-AAH!
I'M GOING TO...
BECOME LIKE... MAKI-SAN ...
MY BODY'S... CHAN... GING...
AH... AH...
IT'S... NO USE... MY BODY'S ...
MEL...TING... INTO... THE DARKNESS ...
I... CAN'T ...
.....

ど…
…you…
DO NOT... LET IT... CONSUME YOU!
YOU WILL LOSE... YOURSELF!
…!?

WHO... IS IT?
IN THIS "PLACE" ... IF YOU DO NOT FOCUS ON WHO YOU ARE... YOU WILL END UP... DISSOLVING ...
ESPECIALLY ... WITHIN THE "ABYSS."
WHO IS SHE?!
.....!
I HAVE... BEEN SAVED ?

IT WAS... RATHER NOISY... SO I DECIDED TO WAKE UP...
フワ…
AND FOUND... MANY THINGS FALLING INTO HERE...
HUH? WHERE HAVE I... SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
THERE... IS A "TRICK" ... FOR DESCENDING... INTO THE "ABYSS" ...
A FLEDGLING... LIKE YOURSELF... SHOULD STOP WHILE YOU ARE AHEAD ...

EH?
WHAT'S... MORE...
WHAT YOU ARE... LOOKING FOR... IS NOT... DOWN... THERE
BUT...
BUT OVER HERE... FOLLOW... ME...
.....
.....

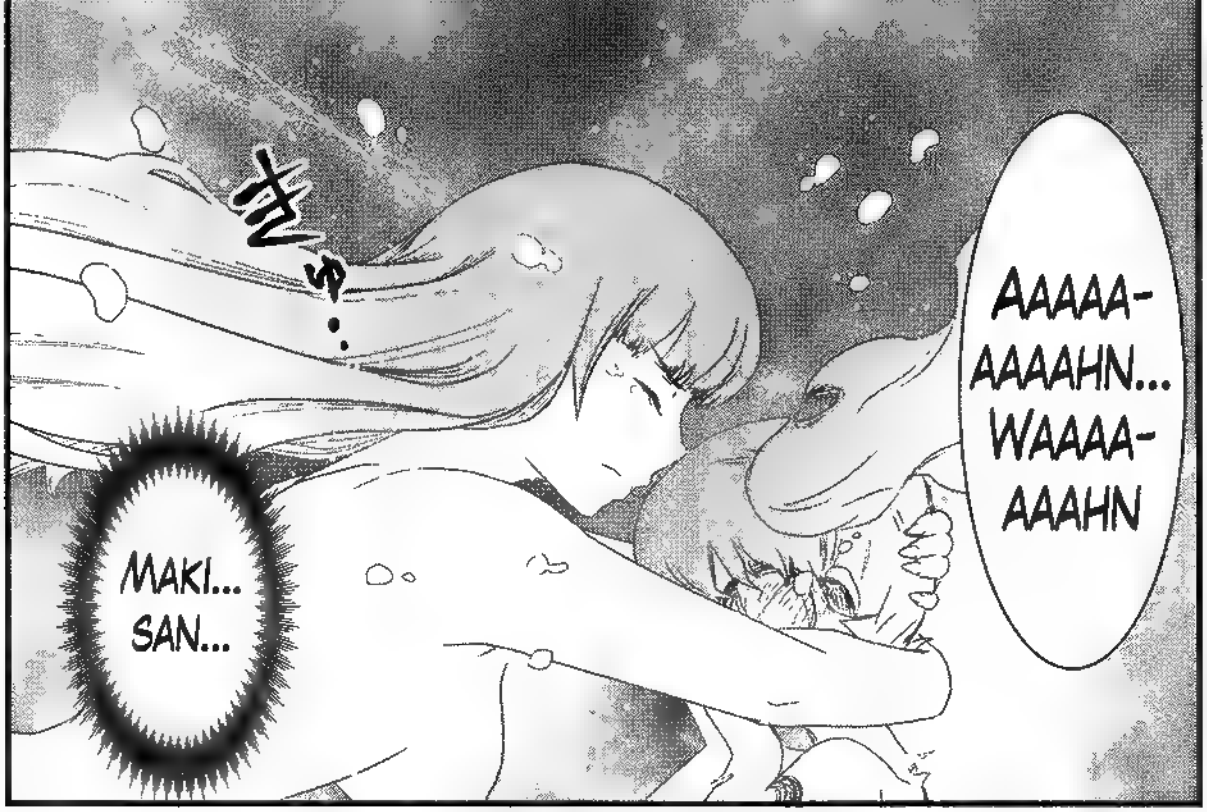
INSIDE... MAKI?
WHY ARE YOU INSIDE MAKI-SAN?
UHHH... JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NO MATTER WHERE ONE MAY DIVE... ALL PATHS LEAD TO "HERE"
EVERYONE WHO HAS "CLOSED" "IMPURITY" AND "THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER"
ALL... COME TO... THIS SAME "ABYSS"
YOU ARE BOTH... RIGHT... AND WRONG... IN THAT STATEMENT ...
EH?
THE GIRL KNOWN AS "MAKI" IS NOTHING MORE THAT ONE... OF MANY OPENINGS
I... AM ...
CAPTIVE... "HERE" ... I AM THE VESTIGES... OF "SOMEONE" ...

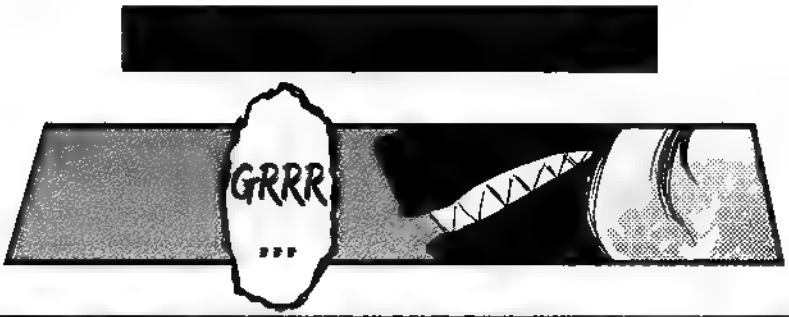
I KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THIS "PLACE," BUT
THERE ARE MANY HOLES... IN MY MEMORY IN REGARDS TO WHO I AM... OR WHAT I WAS...
INDEED.
OF "SOME-ONE" ?
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE?
.....
HM... WE HAVE... ARRIVED ...
"THIS" IS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, CORRECT? THIS "MAKI" I BELIEVE YOU CALLED HER ...
.....!
I AM NOT PARTICULARLY... INTERESTED... EITHER...
WELL, IT DOES NOT... PARTI-CULARLY BOTHER ME...

MA...KI-
SAN?!

MAKI-SAN... PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
I... I...
CA...N'T ...
D...O ...
AN...Y... THING...
I KNOW!
NOW... YOU WILL...
IT IS NOT ALL OF THEM, BUT
I HAVE COME LOOKING FOR YOU, MAKI-SAN!

A LITTLE... OF HERSELF HAS RETURNED, BUT...
IT'S NO GOOD... SHE'S STILL SMALL...
I... AM... WE...AK ...
I COULDN'T... DO ANYTHING ...
I COULDN'T PROTECT... AKITO...
OR... DEFEAT... THEM...
I COULDN'T DO ANY OF THAT! NONE OF IT! NONE OF IT! NONE OF IT! NONE OF IT! NONE OF IT! NONE OF IT! NONE OF IT!
NOT A SINGLE THING!
UWAAAA-AAAAHN ...


AAAAA-
AAAAHN...
WAAAA-
AAAHN
MAKI...
SAN...


GRRR
...

JUST
HOW
LONG...
DO YOU
INTEND...
TO KEEP
THIS UP
?
BYA-
HAHA-
HA!
WHO
KNOWS
!!

I SAY THAT, BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT FOR MUCH LONGER ...
I FEEL LIKE I'LL DISAPPEAR ANY SECOND NOW...
SHIT...
SAKUYA... HURRY UP AND GET BACK!
HURRY!
HM?
I FEEL LIKE... I JUST HEARD... A FAMILIAR VOICE, BUT...
I CAN'T... REMEMBER FROM WHERE I HEARD IT BEFORE ...
IT WOULD SEEM... THAT IT IS... CALLING FOR YOU ...

WE HAVE TO GET BACK!
YES.. YOU'RE RIGHT ...
BE... CAREFUL... ON YOUR RETURN ...
I WILL, THANK YOU ...
LET'S GO, MAKI-SAN!
.....
YOUR NAME IS-
ALSO, I AM SURE...
.....

OSEKAMI-HIME...
OSE... KAMI... HIME ...
HMMM ...

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER, MAKI-SAN...
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER ...
WHAT IS THIS ?!
.....!?

OW!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THIS ISN'T ME!

GUAA-AAA-AH?!

AH... AS I THOUGHT, "BINDS" WORK AS WELL...

IT MAY BE A GREAT INUGAMI BUT IN THE END IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF OTHER "INUGAMI".

HUU... HOWEVER... YOUR COMING ALL THIS WAY TO SUCH A DESERTED PLACE WAS QUITE A FEAT...

I WOULD PREFER... YOU NOT CAUSING US OBSERVERS TO HAVE TO CHASE YOU LIKE THIS ...

BUT THEN AGAIN... THAT DOES NOT MATTER RIGHT NOW, DOES IT?

COULD YOU LEAVE THIS TO US OF THE "INUMORI" FAMILY?
IT IS A MATTER OF THE FAMILY PRECEPTS, AFTER ALL ...

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第23話
SHE WAS SUCH A STRONG PRIESTESS AS WELL... IT IS SUCH A PITY.
SO MAKI-SAMA... HAS BECOME "NESTED" ...
GUOO-OO...
AND SAKUYA HAS NOT EVEN COME BACK YET!
IT'S THE INUMORI!!

第23 IMPRISONMENT

HITOE, FUTAE, MITSUE
LET US SEAL HER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ...
YES, MOTHER.
THREE SOUL ENCLOSURE ...
カッ…
"MITSUDOMOE FORMATION" !

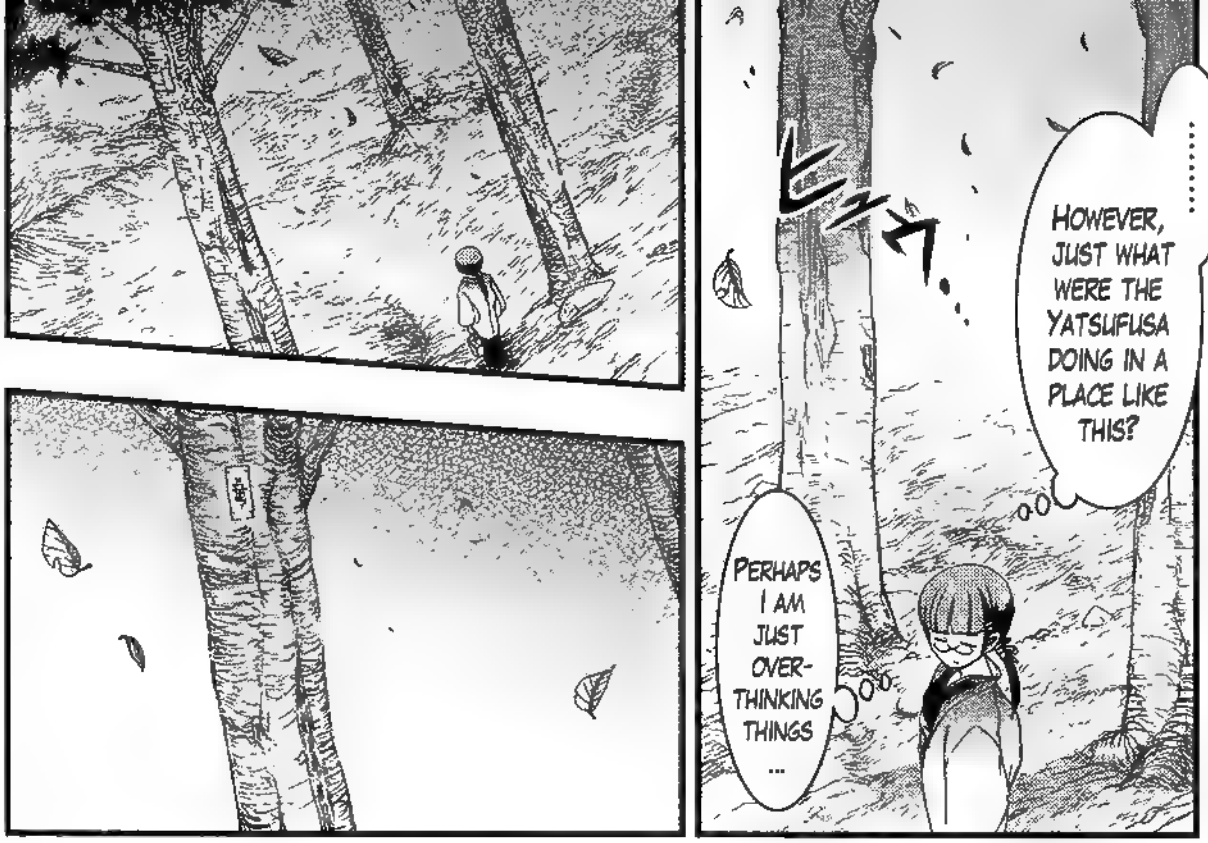
GUAAAAAA
OUR DUTIES AS THE INUMORI FAMILY ARE TO ASSIST ...
TAKE CARE OF ANY AFTER MATH OBSERVE
AND TAKE CARE OF "DISPOSAL".

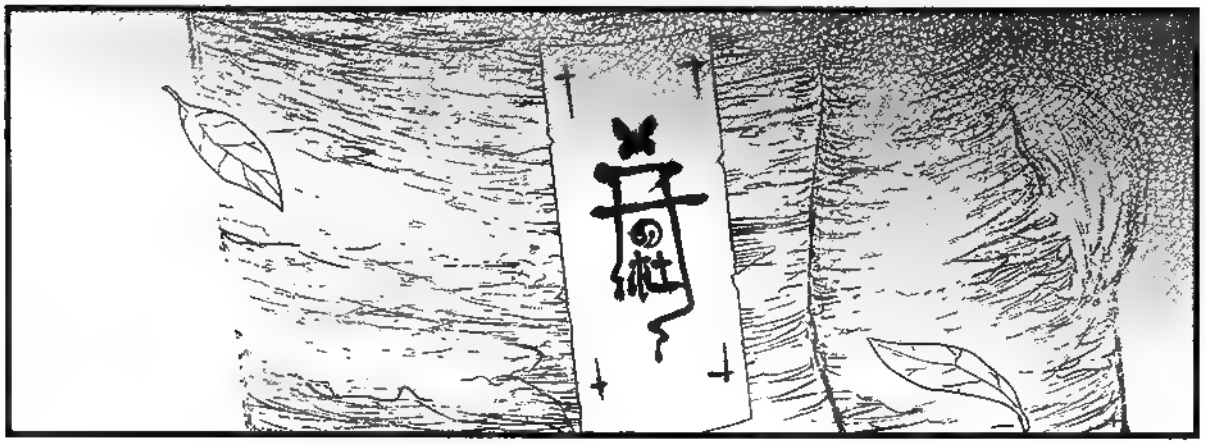
HERE WE GO, FUTAE, MITSUE!
DON
ALL RIGHT!

カ"ッ

KUH.
I'M SORRY, SAKUYA. I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT
ニュウ...

NOW, LET US FINISH THIS QUICKLY SO WE MAY GO HOME
IT IS ONE OF OUR FAMILY PRECEPTS... TO FINISH EVERYTHING QUICKLY, AFTER ALL
MAKI!


PERHAPS I AM JUST OVER-THINKING THINGS ...
HOWEVER, JUST WHAT WERE THE YATSUFUSA DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
.....



WELL DONE
HANABISHI, KOUGEN...

THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME.
WITH THIS, EVERYTHING IS SET...
ズゥン...
ズゥン...
SO WE ARE FINALLY GOING TO ATTACK ORINOMIYA, HM...
YOU SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM TWO YEARS AGO WHEN YOU FIRST ATTACKED THEM.
OOOI! STOP THAT!
YOU ARE GOING MAKE THIS WHOLE PLACE CAVE IN AND BURY US ALIVE!
I WAS DRIVEN TO EXHAUSTION LAST TIME AFTER DESTROYING SEVERAL BARRIERS.
THINGS WERE NOT THAT SIMPLE.

HUHAA
DO FORGIVE ME.
I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF. I DID NOT WANT MY BODY TO GROW DULL, AFTER ALL.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LET US GO WILD YET?
がぼん
がぼん
UHUHU ...

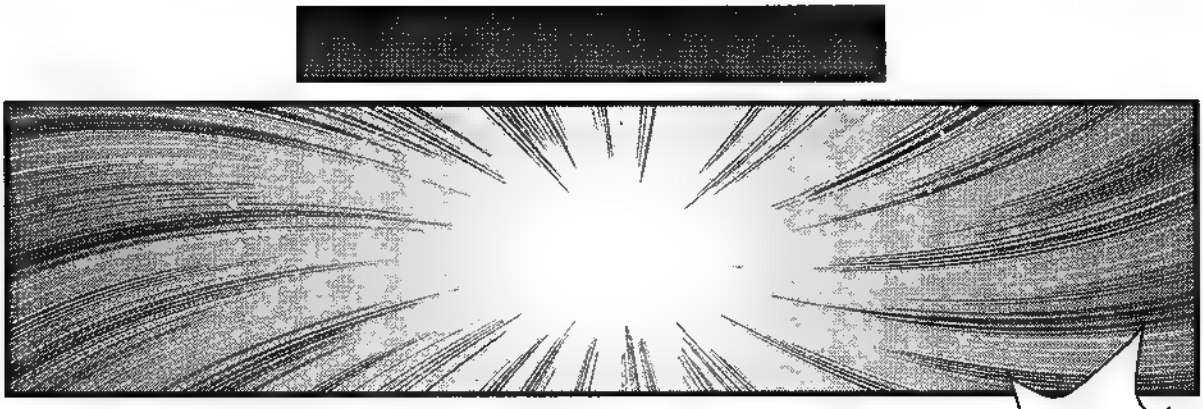
THEN I WILL HAVE YOU COME WITH ME
つぅ〜り
WE WILL GO AND UNLEASH THE LAST YATSUFUSA KNOWN AS "FUURAI".
YOU WILL BE COMING AS WELL, WON'T YOU.. KAINA?

I'M YOUR "SWORD"
I'LL GO WHEREVER YOU WANT ME TO...
.....
HMPF ...
I SEE YOU HAVE BECOME QUITE ATTACHED TO HER ...
THEN I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS THAT US REMAINING YATSUFUSA WILL BE ATTACKING ORINOMIYA ...
HONESTLY, YOU ARE QUITE THE DEMANDING WOMAN.
UHUHU
I WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU THEN.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COME. YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BED THAT CORPSE OF A WOMAN FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
SWEEET!
WHAT'S THIS? DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN LAY OUR HANDS ON THE WOMEN OF THE INUGAMI?
ボタ!
ボタ!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING GIVING ME ORDERS?
YOU WANNA DIE?
AKAZUKIN... AS LONG AS YOUR GOAL REMAINS UNCHANGED THEN MY BODY IS YOURS.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COMMAND ME.
WHY YOU...
I WOULD WILL BE COUNTING ON YOU FOR A LITTLE LONGER AS WELL... KOUGEN.

LET US CONTINUE ON.
THEN

ガッ



ば、
MAKI-SA...N ?!

IT'S BRIGHT OUTSIDE ?

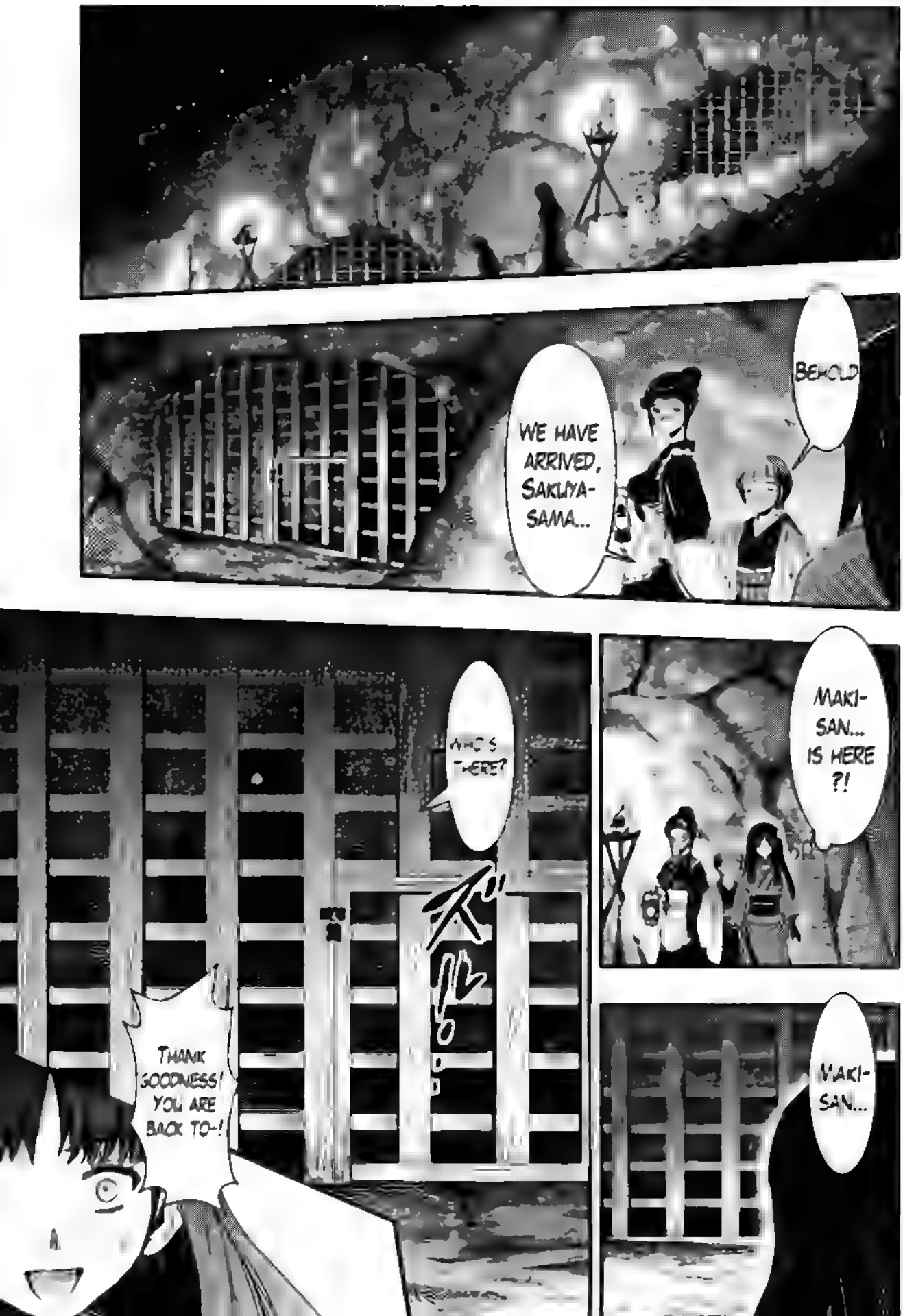
ガッ…
ガッ

ガッ…
AH...
MILADY!!
ス…
ガ…

YAE-SAN...
MILADY!!
YOU ARE ALWAYS SO RECKLESS!
AH...
WE... WELL ...
AH... NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT...
WHERE IS MAKI-SAN?!
YOU SEE ...

INMORI ESTATE
SAKUYA-SAMA!
PLEASE DO NOT JUST MAKE YOUR WAY IN LIKE THIS!
I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
SAKUYA-SAMA
YAE-CHAN ...
I'M SWOWY!

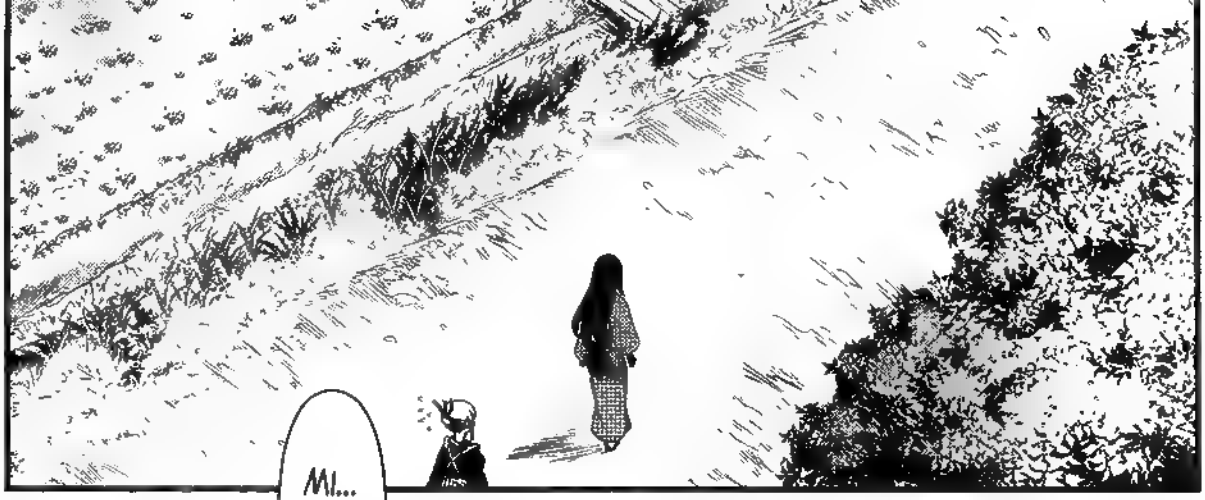
AFTER SEEING HER LIKE "THAT"
I AM SURE YOU WISH TO SEE WHAT HAS BECOME OF HER.
WELL... I HAD A FEELING YAE WAS NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DISSUADE YOU FROM COMING HERE, BUT
I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CHOICE THEN.
SO A PLACE LIKE THIS EXISTED BEHIND THE INUMORI MANSION...
WE MADE USE OF THIS CAVE TO MAKE INTO A DUNGEON.
IN TRUTH, NEITHER YOU NOR THE OTHER PRIESTESSES WERE TO KNOW OF THIS PLACE.


BEHOLD
WE HAVE ARRIVED, SAKUYA-SAMA...
MAKI-SAN... IS HERE ?!
WHO'S THERE?
THANK GOODNESS! YOU ARE BACK TO-!
MAKI-SAN...

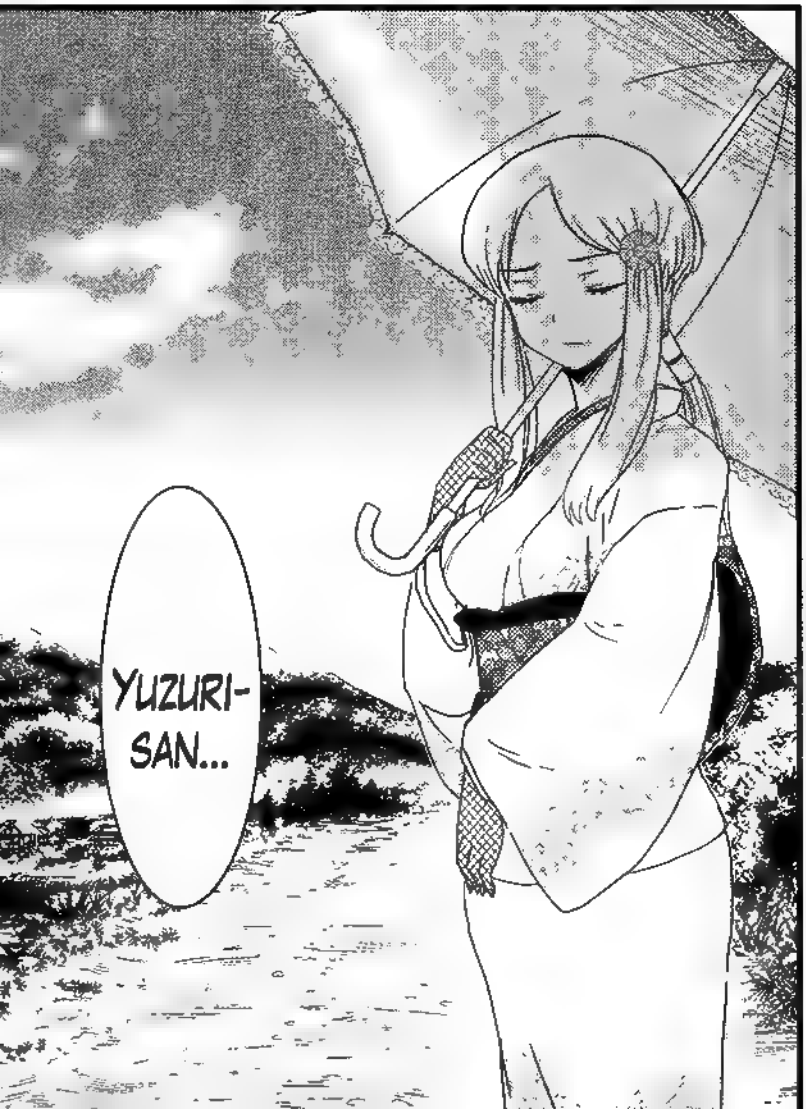
ズル…
WHO ARE YOU... ONEE-CHAN?
DID YOU COME... TO GET ME OUT OF HERE?
ズル…
チャリ…
EH?
WHY... AM I... HERE?
LET ME OUT... HEY, LET ME OUT!
ズル…

HEY!
THIS DUNGEON HAS A BARRIER SO THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.
DESPITE HOW SHE ACTS SHE IS QUITE DOCILE.
WE HAVE ALSO MADE A POINT OF BINDING THE NESTED INUGAMI A GREAT DEAL AS WELL ...
IT... IT CAN'T BE...
!!

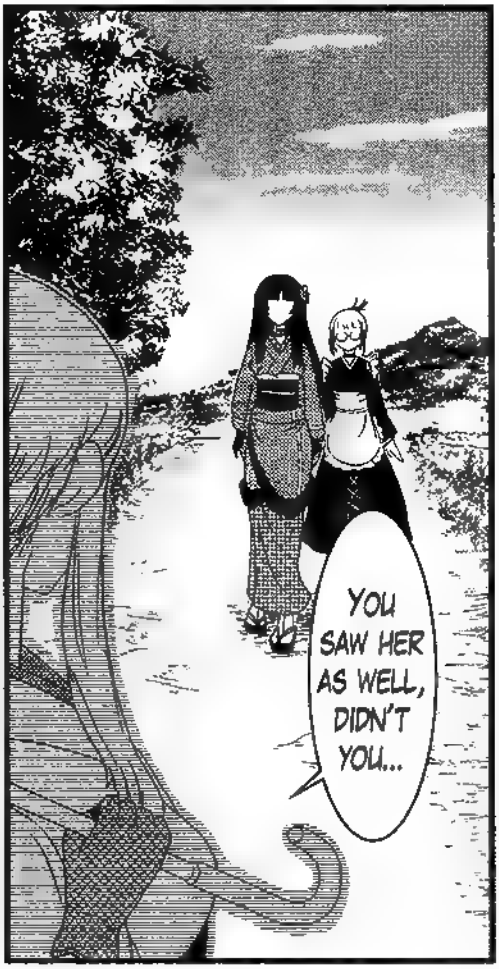
LET ME... OUT!
LET ME OUT!
I WASN'T ABLE TO SAVE HER...
HOWEVER THERE ARE MANY PARTS OF HER BODY THAT HAVE BEEN CORRUPTED BY IT
TAKI-SAN WAS QUITE AT A LOSS AS WELL WHEN SHE SAW HER LIKE THIS



MI... MILADY ...

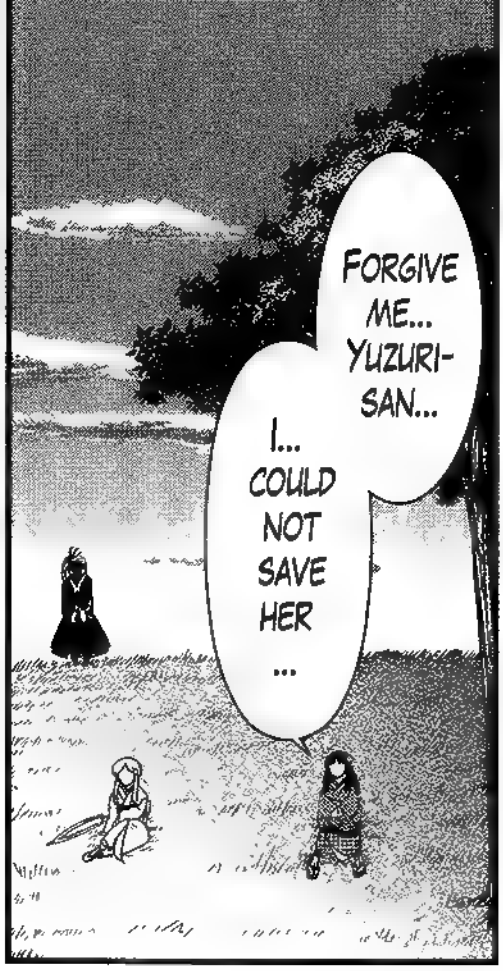


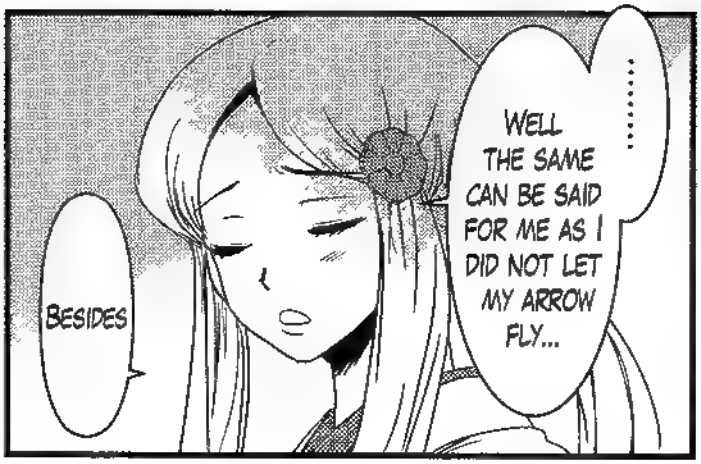
YUZURI-SAN...

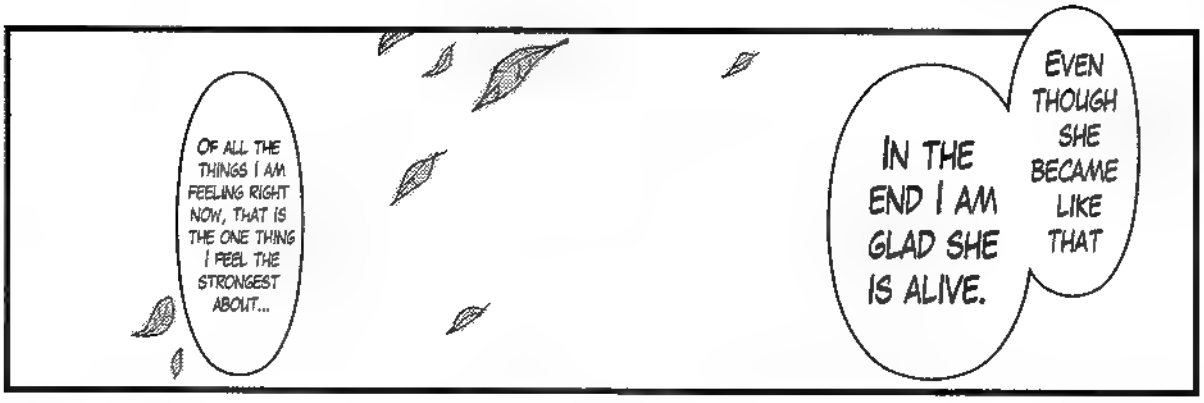


YOU SAW HER AS WELL, DIDN'T YOU...

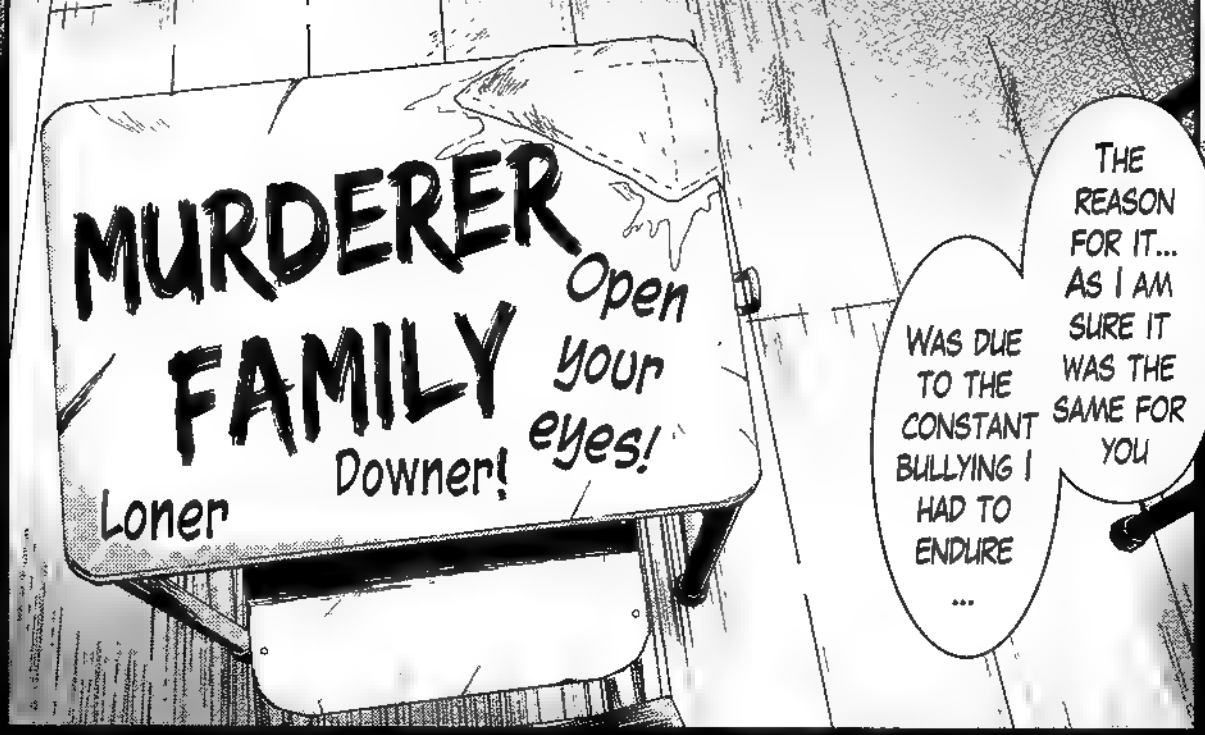
EVEN THOUGH I ACTED SO ARROGANTLY WHEN I SAID I WOULD!

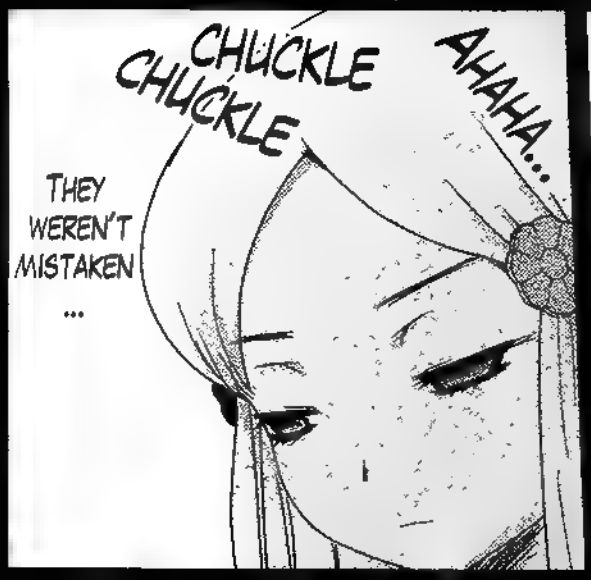

FORGIVE ME... YUZURI-SAN...
I... COULD NOT SAVE HER ...

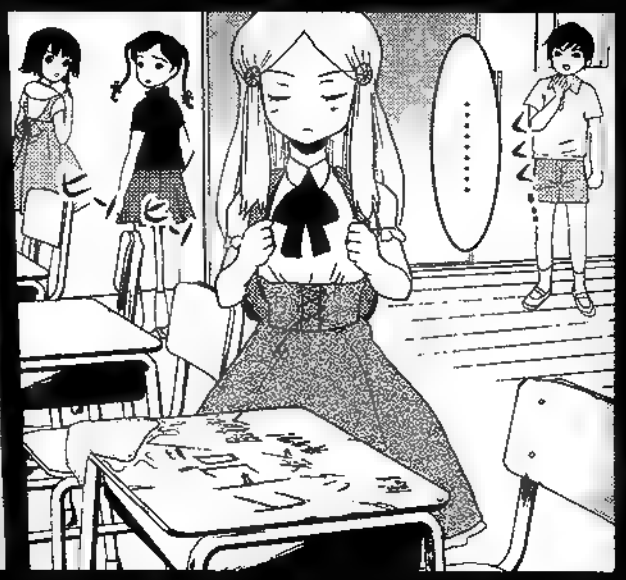

BESIDES
WELL THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR ME AS I DID NOT LET MY ARROW FLY...
.....


OF ALL THE THINGS I AM FEELING RIGHT NOW, THAT IS THE ONE THING I FEEL THE STRONGEST ABOUT...
IN THE END I AM GLAD SHE IS ALIVE.
EVEN THOUGH SHE BECAME LIKE THAT

I STILL FEEL YOU ARE PLENTY NASTY NOW, THOUGH...
YAE-SAN?
YES
I HAD A QUIETER, NASTIER PERSONALITY.
FOR YOU SEE... WHEN I WAS A CHILD


MURDERER
FAMILY
Loner
Downer!
Open your eyes!
THE REASON FOR IT... AS I AM SURE IT WAS THE SAME FOR YOU
WAS DUE TO THE CONSTANT BULLYING I HAD TO ENDURE ...


CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
AHAHA...
THEY WEREN'T MISTAKEN ...


.....

HUHU... SO IT WORKS OUT JUST FINE...

AND MORE THAN LIKELY TAKE SOMEONE FROM YOU ALL
I WILL BE SURE TO KILL PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE

I STARTED PLAYING A GAME WHERE EVERY DAY I WOULD GO SOMEPLACE HIGHER...
AND SET MY SIGHTS ON WHOEVER I THOUGHT WAS HARASSING ME AT SCHOOL.
I WAS ABLE TO RELIEVE SOME OF THE STRESS THAT HAD PENT UP INSIDE ME...
WITH THE FEELING OF SUPERIORITY I FELT EVERY DAY IN "BEING ABLE TO KILL YOU LOWLY INSECTS WHENEVER I WANTED"
I JUST MADE A POINT OF NEVER LETTING MY ARROW LOOSE.
IT WAS MY PRACTICING TO BECOME A "MURDERER" ...
.....
BUT THE ONE DAY...

I WONDER WHY THEY ARE NOT COMING HERE...
IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR THEM THEY'RE NOT COMING ...
I BEAT 'EM ALL TO A PULP AND SENT 'EM TO THE HOSPITAL.
.....!?
WHA-?!
YOU'RE INUO YUZURI, RIGHT? YOU REALLY ARE A DOWNER, HUH?
IT WAS PAINFUL TO WATCH YOU, YOU KNOW.
AH...
JUST WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
UUU...

NOT BAD ...
THIS IS MUCH BETTER FOR YOU
THAN JUST QUIETLY TAKIN' ON ALL THE INSULTS THEY'RE DISHIN' OUT!
WHY YOU!
HAHAA
I UNDER-STAND YOU...
MY NAME IS MAKI... AND I'M FROM THE INUNAKA BRANCH HOUSE...
HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
.....!
WE'RE FROM BRANCH HOUSES... HAVE INUGAMI BLOOD ...
AND NO MATTER WHAT THEY ALWAYS MAKE FUN OF US, HUH...

DO YA WANNA PARTNER UP WITH ME?
LET'S SHOW THE MAIN HOUSE WHO THEY'RE REALLY DEALING WITH!
ALL... RIGHT ...
SWEET!
STILLNESS AND MOTION... YIN AND YANG ...
EVER SINCE THEN MAKI HAD BECOME MY "OTHER HALF" ...
YUZURI-SAN...
HAD I LOST HER I AM SURE THAT I WOULD HAVE-

SO
YOU HAVE MY THANKS
SAKUYA-SAN...
YOU ARE WELCOME ...

ガアアア
バサッ

SO YOU CAME AFTER ALL

I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU, AKAZUKIN OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF
チャキ
TO HAVE FUURAI.

MY, MY
GOOD EVENING.

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GETSURIN NI KIRI SAKU

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24
UHUHU
THAT IS RIGHT, I AM AKAZUKIN
I AM SHE THAT SERVES THE TRUE INUGAMI.
DO NOT MOVE, YOU MONSTROUS CHILD.
YOU HAVE LIVED FOR OVER 300 HUNDRED YEARS, SO YOU ARE A FULL-FLEDGED "MONSTER" AT THIS POINT.
NO, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE STRANGE TO CALL YOU A "CHILD," WOULDN'T IT...

24
DISASTER

すう…
I SEE THAT THE INUGAMI ARE AS FEARSOME AS EVER.
THREATENING ME WITH THAT THING ON YOUR HIP...

I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE.
SNAP!
WHAT A FLASHY, VULGAR SWORD YOU HAVE THERE...
……
ばと…

ヒバッ

!?

オオ

AAH... MY LADY!!

ズバッ

……!!

ギィィ
ヒュッ
WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, MY "SWORD" IS BLACK AND LOOKS RATHER GOOD, WOULD YOU NOT AGREE?

KAINA... MAKE SURE TO PROTECT ME PROPERLY, WON'T YOU?
ぴとり
.....
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID NOT TO UNTIL YOU CALLED FOR ME, WEREN'T YOU?
I HAVE A FEELING I'VE FACED OFF AGAINST YOU BEFORE... BUT
I CAN'T REMEMBER YOU.
I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOU BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE AIR ABOUT YOU HAS CHANGED, BOY OF THE NINOG! FAMILY...
.....
HE IS... IT IS JUST AS I THOUGHT, HIS MEMORIES HAVE BEEN...
FIRST THAT GIRL AND NOW YOU SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT THE OLD ME BUT
RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT ALL...

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW I AM JUST A SINGLE "SWORD"
THAT PROTECTS AKAZUKIN!
YOTSUHA... MUSTUHA... IT WOULD SEEM THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE HIM.
YOU TWO WILL GO AND "BIND" AKAZUKIN.
UNDER-STOOD!

MY, MY ...
!?
HUU...
SHE ASKED TOO MUCH OF ME, THAT AKAZUKIN ...

KUCHIWA ...
THERE IS NO POINT IN HAVING AN ESCAPE ROUTE IF IT IS THAT CLOSE TO THE ENTRANCE, YOU KNOW
OOOH? UUUU?!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
OH?
OF ALL THE THINGS SHE COULD HAVE ASKED ME, SHE ASKED ME TO MAKE AN ESCAPE ROUTE OF ALL THINGS...
HHNAH ?
AAH... DON'T WORRY ...
OUR LADY IS BEING ATTACKED ON BOTH SIDES!
THIS IS BAD!

YAAA!!
HUMAN GIRLS ARE REALLY FRAGILE, YOU SEE ...
I END UP BREAKING THEM REALLY EASILY SO I DON'T PLAN ON TAKING THEM ON ANY TIME SOON...

K... KYAA ?!
WHA- ?!
SO I'VE BECOME TIRED OF KILLING WEAKLINGS
BY THE WAY, I'VE KILLED COUNTLESS PEOPLE OF THE RANK AND FILE

YOTSUE! MUTSUE!
KUU!
UHUHU ...
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT IS JUST HOW IT GOES ...
RIGHT THEN. KAINA, I WILL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU ...
SLAY
THAT WOMAN.

さぁぁぁ…
ORIN-OMIYA

……!
……!?
IT CAN'T BE...
……?
WHAT?
THE BARRIER... AROUND OOFURO FOREST
HAS... VANISHED ?

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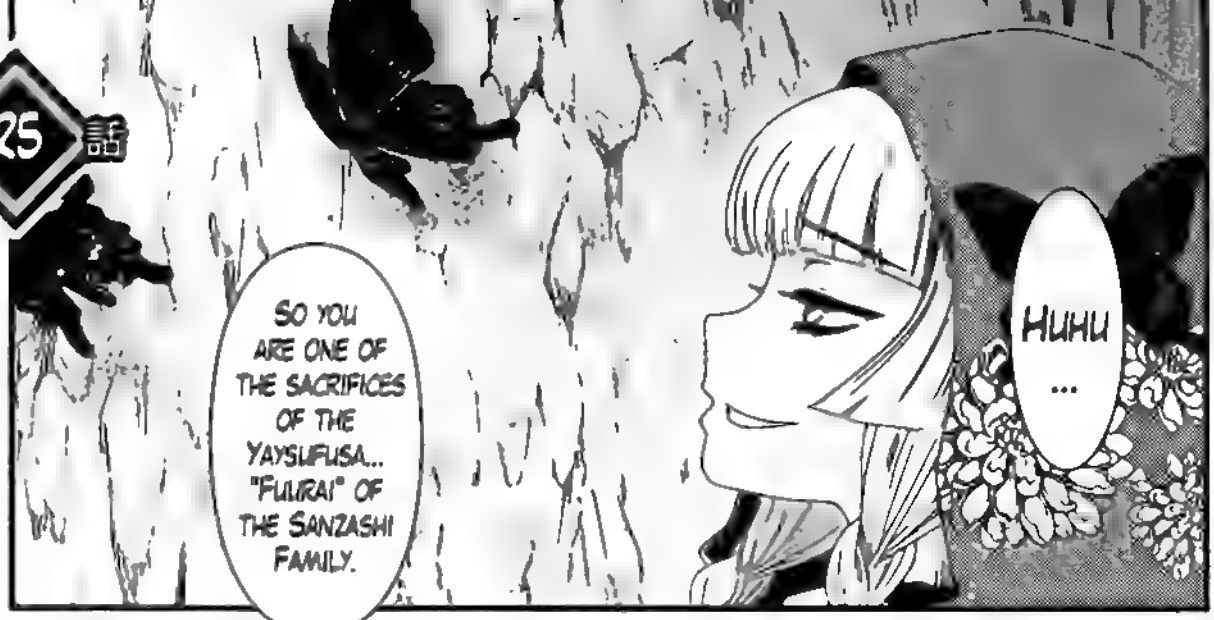
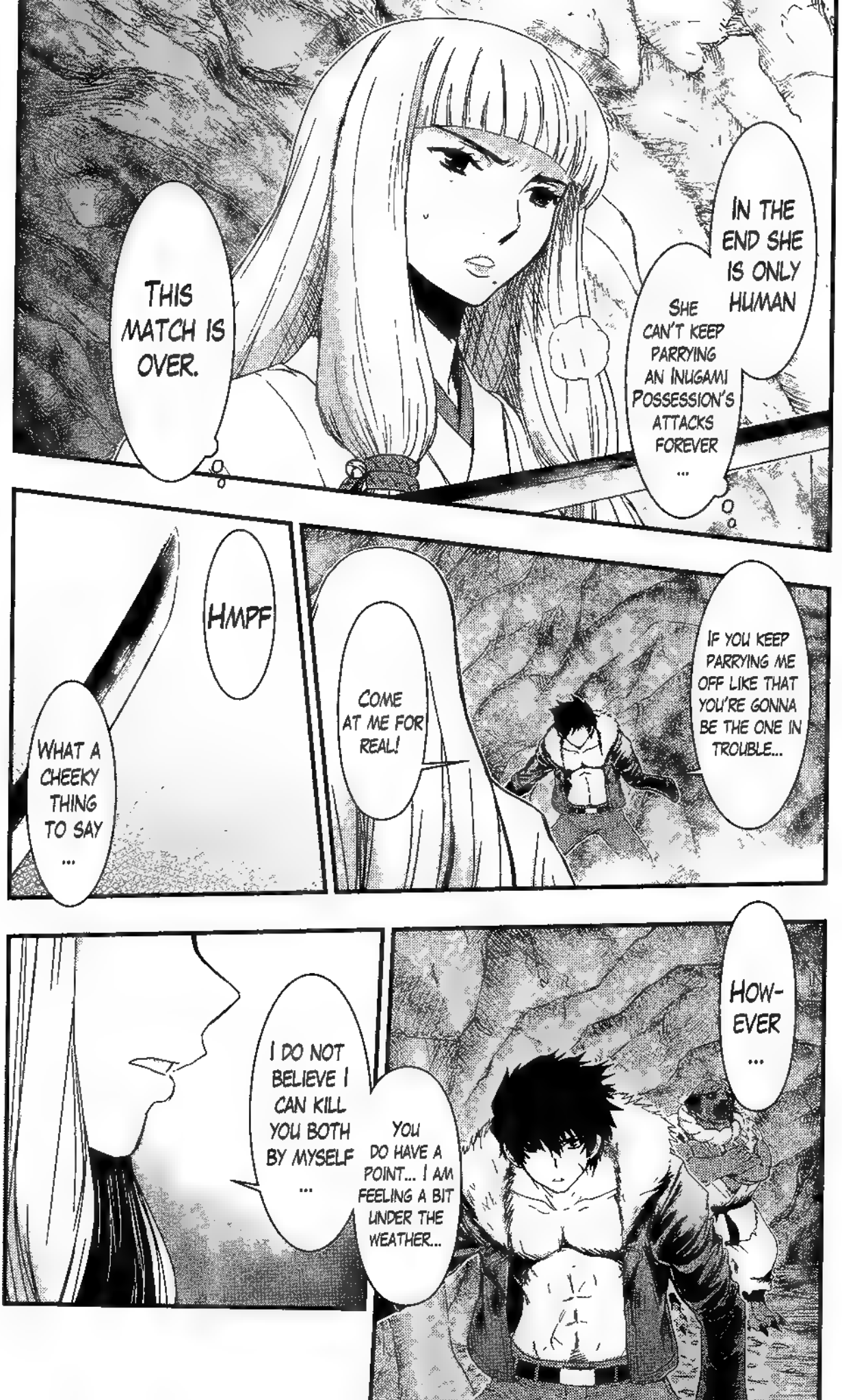

HUHU ...
SO YOU ARE ONE OF THE SACRIFICES OF THE YAYSUFUSA... "FUJIRAI" OF THE SANZASHI FAMILY.

I AM NOW GOING TO RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR SEAL.
YOU WISH TO BECOME FREE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE DO YOU NOT ?
GUU... UUU ...

I CAN HEAR... THE CLASHING OF SWORDS...
TH...IS IS-

第25 THOUGHTS OF THE FULL MOON

ギャリン
HOO ...
SHE IS DOING WELL PARRYING OFF THAT RUNT KAINA'S ATTACKS ...
I SUPPOSE... IT IS JUST WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT OF THE HEAD OF THE INUGAMI FAMILY
BUT...


THIS MATCH IS OVER.
IN THE END SHE IS ONLY HUMAN
SHE CAN'T KEEP PARRYING AN INUGAMI POSSESSION'S ATTACKS FOREVER ...
HMPF
WHAT A CHEEKY THING TO SAY ...
COME AT ME FOR REAL!
IF YOU KEEP PARRYING ME OFF LIKE THAT YOU'RE GONNA BE THE ONE IN TROUBLE...
I DO NOT BELIEVE I CAN KILL YOU BOTH BY MYSELF ...
YOU DO HAVE A POINT... I AM FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER...
HOW-EVER ...

BUT DID YOU
HONESTLY THINK... I WAS FIGHTING YOU SERIOUSLY?
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO COME TO "THAT SPOT"
SO I COULD TAKE YOU ALL OUT IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
WHAT IS THIS?
.....!?

SEAL OF THE "TSUCHI-GUMO" !!
YOU CANNOT MOVE.
I HAD THOSE TWO OF THE INUMORI PREPARE THIS INCOMPLETE "FOREST" IN ADVANCE
AND I HAVE JUST COMPLETED IT NOW.
KUU...
NOOO ...

I MUST HAVE YOTSUE AND MUTSUE TENDED TO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
SO I AM GOING TO END THIS NOW.
OIOIOI
NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...

!?
JUST KIDDING

WHA-?!
I DIDN'T SAY IT BEFORE BUT AFTER A CERTAIN POINT "FORESTS" AND SPELLS STOPPED WORKING ON ME.
THAT'S MY "POWER OF THE MOON," YOU SEE.

TSK... HIS ATTACK REACHED ALL THE WAY TO MY BONE...
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYONE STRONG LEFT IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD
SO I LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT ON PURPOSE.
WELL... MY REASONS ASIDE...
SO ARE YOU SAYING SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO IS IMMUNE TO "FORESTS," JUST OBEDIENTLY ALLOWED YOURSELF TO GET CAPTURED AND SENT INTO THE "OOFURU FOREST" ?
IT WOULD BE A PAIN IF YOU RAN AWAY
SO I'M GONNA BREAK YOUR LEGS TOO JUST TO BE SAFE.
SORRY ABOUT THIS, HEAD OF THE INUGAMI FAMILY...

ゴォォ

OOOH?!

BEADS?!

ゴォォ

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!?

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ゴ

UOOOOH ?!
OOOH?!

ズガアアアアアア
クルッ
ズガガガガガ
KUU ...
HE REALLY DID IT... WHAT A KICK...
HE EVEN KICKED ME ALL THE WAY OUT OF THE CAVE!
I SEE... YOU'RE ...

GRRR
SANZASHI'S "FUURAI" !!
YOU ALL RIGHT, IHANA?!
GRRR...

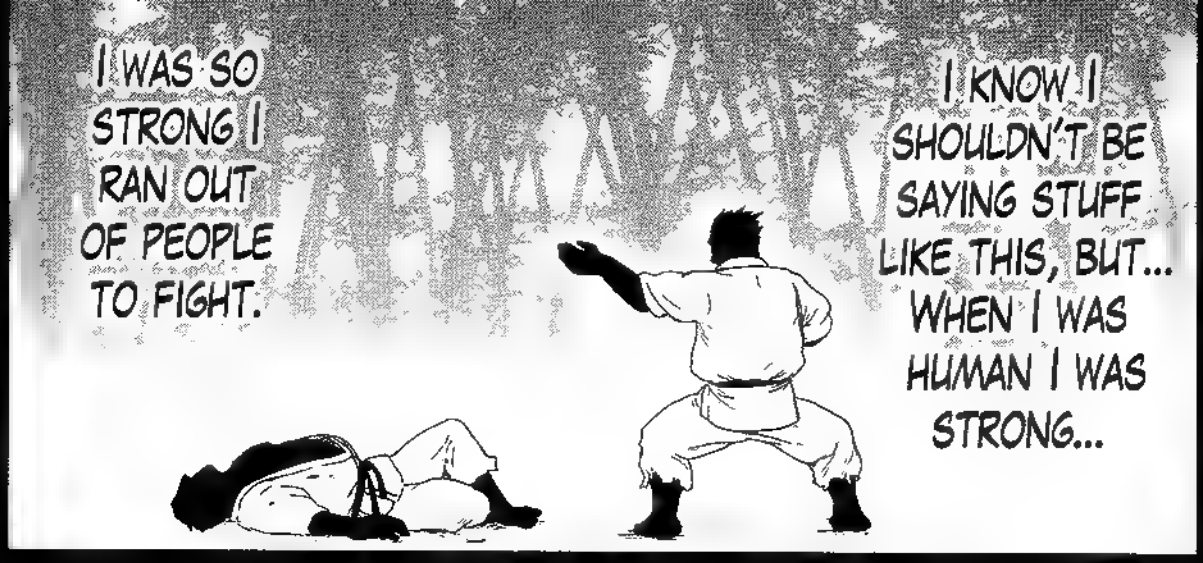
SO YOU HAVE BEEN RELEASED... FUURAI...
I AM... FINE, I JUST CANNOT USE MY LEFT ARM.
BE CAREFUL, HE IS QUITE SKILLED...
REST ASSURED, IHANA...
I DO NOT INTEND TO BE SLAIN BY ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU!!

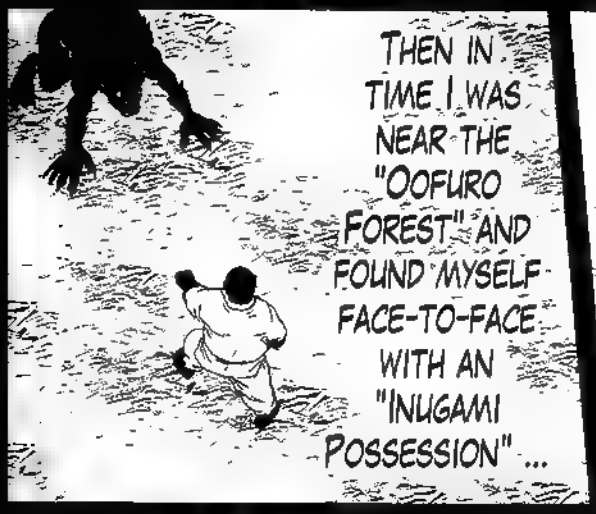
OOOH!
NOW THAT I LOOK AT YOU YOU'RE AN ANCIENT DOG! AND WHAT'S MORE THE LAD THINKS HE CAN BEAT ME!!
INTEREST-ING!!

OOOH ?!
OH?

HE'S ABLE TO HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST ME!!
OOOH?! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

SINCE I FOUGHT SOMEONE LIKE THIS!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE


I WAS SO STRONG I RAN OUT OF PEOPLE TO FIGHT.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE SAYING STUFF LIKE THIS, BUT... WHEN I WAS HUMAN I WAS STRONG...


THEN IN TIME I WAS NEAR THE "OOFURO FOREST" AND FOUND MYSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH AN "INUGAMI POSSESSION"...

THEN AGAIN I GUESS THAT'S KIND OF A GIVEN... I NEVER HELD BACK SO I KILLED EVERYONE WITH A SINGLE ATTACK...

THIS IS THE KIND OF OPPONENT I WAS LOOKING FOR...
THIS IS IT!!
BUT-

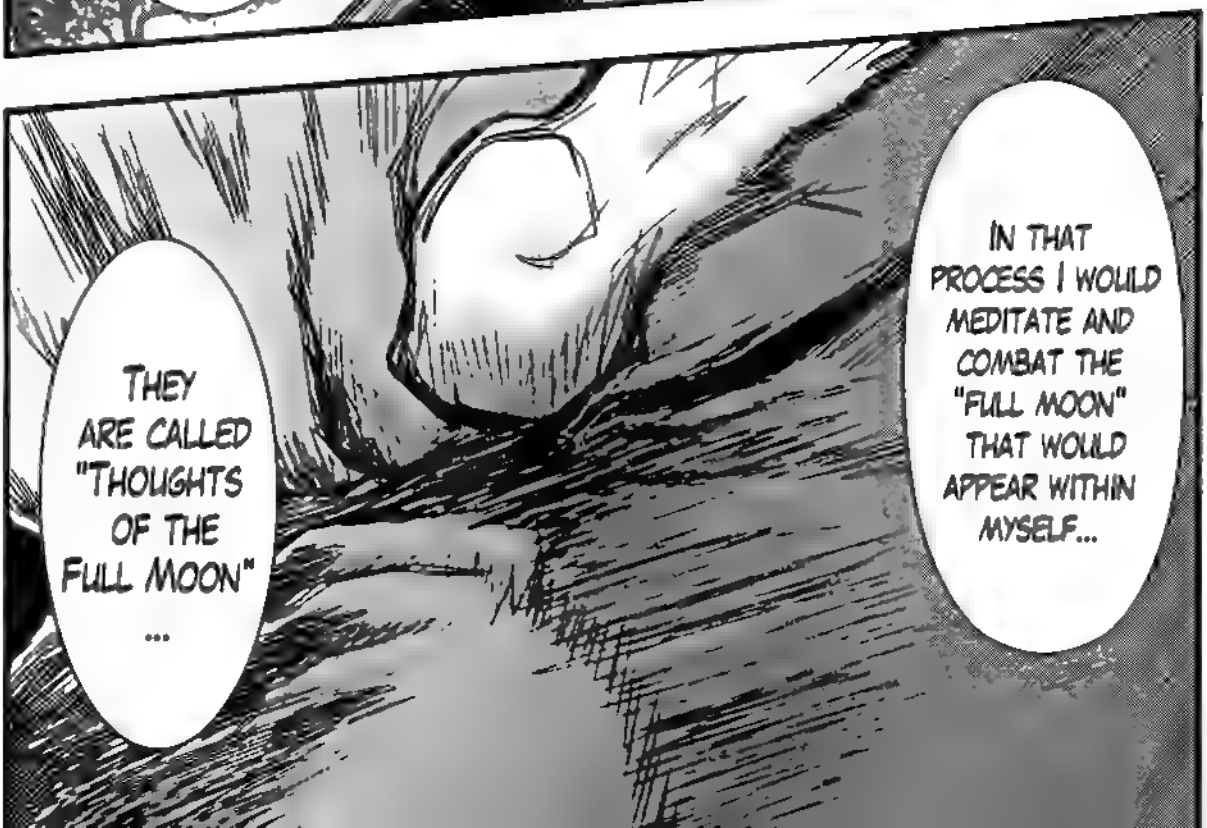
IF I MADE ONE WRONG MOVE I WAS DEAD!!
THAT WAS THE KIND OF CLOSE FIGHT IT WAS ...

AND I ENDED UP BECOMING AN "INUGAMI POSSESSION"...
THE BLOOD OF MY CLAN... THE BLOOD OF THE "YATSUFUSA" AWAKENED...
I CAME TO KNOW THAT THERE WASN'T ANYBODY LEFT IN THE "OUTSIDE WORLD" FOR ME TO FIGHT...
I SPENT MANY YEARS AFTER THAT LOOKING FOR PEOPLE I COULD FIGHT, BUT
I RAN OUT OF PEOPLE THAT COULD EVEN STAND UP TO ME...
THEN IT ALL HAPPENED AGAIN...
GUHAHA-HAA!!
SO I'M REALLY HAPPY RIGHT NOW!!

GUHA HAHA
DO NOT WORR...

I SEE... SO YOU USE THAT "AVIDYA SAKUOJI" STYLE OF MARTIAL ARTS
THAT THOSE BUDDHIST PRIESTS USE...

INDEED I DO... MY CLAN
FACED THE CURSE OF THE "YATSUFUSA" ... AND TRAINED SO AS TO OVERCOME IT...


IN THAT PROCESS I WOULD MEDITATE AND COMBAT THE "FULL MOON" THAT WOULD APPEAR WITHIN MYSELF...
THEY ARE CALLED "THOUGHTS OF THE FULL MOON" ...

OOH?
SO THAT IS TO SAY...
THAT DETESTABLE FULL MOON
IS ALWAYS WITHIN ME!!

ORINOMIYA
EH?
YES ...
THEY SAY THAT SHE WILL BE BACK TOMORROW ...
MY MOTHER... IS AWAY?
MOTHER... JUST WHERE COULD YOU BE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

I AM GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF "OOFURO FOREST" !
IN THAT TIME I WANT YOU TO CONTACT YUZURI-SAN AND EVERYONE, YAE-SAN!
WILL DO!

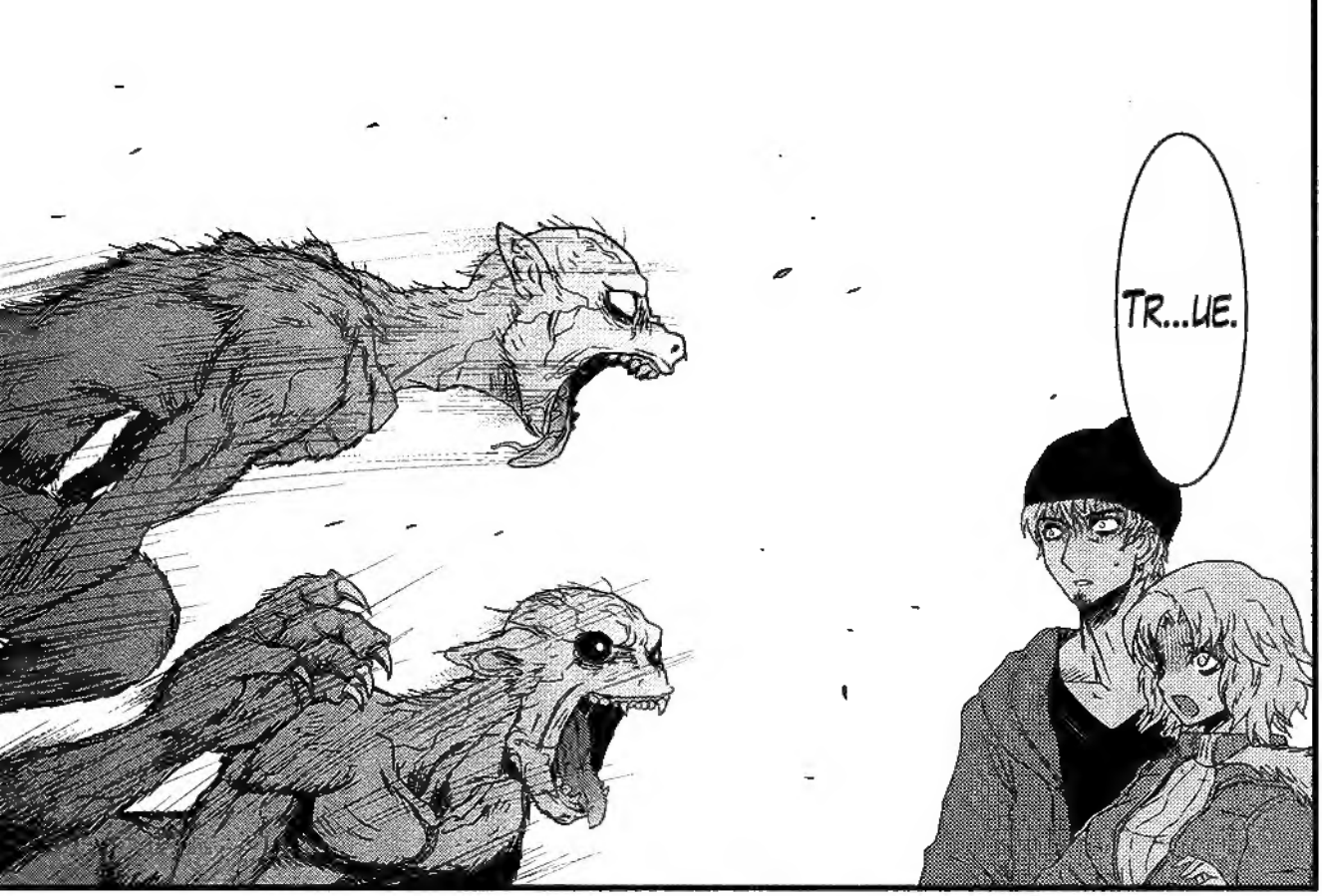
TO THINK THAT THE BARRIER AROUND "OOFURO FOREST" WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT...
IT'S FINE IF IT'S JUST A MISTAKE... BUT IF IT ISN'T-!!

WEREN'T YOU TOLD... NOT TO WALK THIS WAY WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE?
HAHAHA, YOU MEAN THAT WHOLE "SOMETHING OR OTHER WILL GET YOU," RIGHT?
I'M SURE IT'S JUST ABOUT A BOAR OR SOMETHING ...
オオ...

WHAT'S THAT?

HEY, THEY'RE LOOKING THIS WAY
NO WAY, YOU'VE SEEN WAY TOO MANY HORROR MOVIES
BUT LIKE I SAID, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WHOLE THING ABOUT SOMETHING COMING OUT IS

WAS THERE A FESTIVAL OR SOMETHING GOING ON AROUND HERE?
NO, AREN'T THOSE ZOMBIES ?!


TR...UE.

NOOO...
GYAAAA...

HIHAA
SHALL WE GET GOING THEN?

THE NEGATION SEAL, "FOREST SLAYER."
SO HER PLACING US HERE WAS ALL A PART OF HER STRATEGY ...
THAT AKAZUKIN... WHAT A BOLD PLAN SHE'S CONCOCTED ...

月輪に斬り咲く④ノ完

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著　者
丸山朝ヲ（まるやまともを）
発行人
伊藤嘉彦
発行元
株式会社 幻冬舎コミックス
〒151-0051 東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
電話　03(5411)6436(編集)
発売元
株式会社 幻冬舎
〒151-0051 東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
電話　03(5411)6222(営業)
振替00120-8-767643
印刷・製本所
大日本印刷株式会社

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